



Photo by Karl Weisel

Dominating the court in Wiesbaden

Both the Wiesbaden men's and women's teams made it to the finals of the Installation Management Command-Europe Community-level Basketball Championships March 18. Above: Wiesbaden's Donald Craig dribbles his way past a Stuttgart player on the way toward the basket. Both teams also qualified for the Army-Air Force Championships to be held in Wiesbaden March 29 to April 1. See page 27 of this issue to see how the Wiesbaden teams did against Heidelberg teams in the Army-Europe finals.

Army activates hotline for wounded Soldiers, families

Soldiers and families can seek help to resolve medical-related issues

The Army activated its Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline March 19, at the direction of the acting secretary of the Army and the Army chief of staff.

The hotline offers wounded Soldiers and family members a way to seek help to resolve medical-related issues. It also provides a means for Soldiers and families to alert senior Army leadership about other medical issues. Knowledge of such issues helps Army leadership improve the way the Army serves the medical needs of Soldiers and their families.

It can be reached by calling 1-800-984-8523, Monday through Friday. From Europe, Soldiers and family members can call mil 312-328-0002 or email wfsupport@conus.army.mil. It is currently open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, but will

expand to 24 hours a day, seven days a week when training of additional personnel is completed.

The U.S. Army Human Resources Command operates the call center.

"We have designed this call center to be able to collectively hear what the Soldiers say about their health care issues, so as issues are raised, we can identify systemic faults or problematic areas, and senior leaders can better allocate resources," said Maj. Gen. Sean J. Byrne, U.S. Army Human Resources commander. "It's all about serving our wounded and injured Soldiers and their families. If we can find a way to improve our system, we will. It's that simple."

The hotline is working. Landstuhl Regional Medical Center received three referrals from the call center the first day of activation.

Many wounded Soldiers who have supported the Global War on Terrorism, as well as their families, may endure hardships while navigating through the

See Wounded Soldier Hotline on page 4

Inside this issue

Reader feedback

"The medical care is great," said Büdingen's Staff Sgt. Donnell Jordan about the quality of care he's received while in the service. See page 2 for more feedback.



Greens fees

Prices will rise for most golfers on Baumholder, Wiesbaden and other Army Europe courses starting April 1. See page 13 for the story.

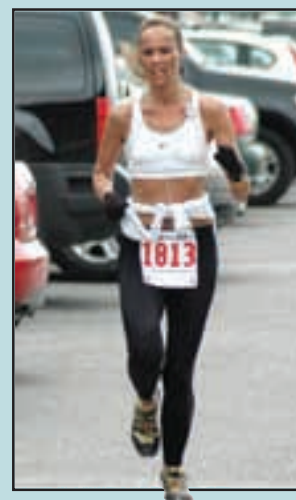


Army chefs get cooking

U.S. Army Europe chefs brought home the second-place team trophy and other awards from the Army's annual culinary arts workshop and competition. See pages 16-17.

Pounding the pavement

Runners enjoy a chilly, 13-mile, half marathon race on and around Wiesbaden Army Airfield. See page 26 for the story and photos.



Feedback:

Are you satisfied with the medical care you receive while serving the military?



Capt. Patrick Zenk
159th Medical Company,
Wiesbaden

"I've received better medical care since serving in the military than I did as a civilian."



Sharon Johnson
USAG Giessen

"Soldiers, family members and civilian employees have the option to receive medical care, either through the military or civilian facilities. I believe the system in place shows the Army cares about Soldiers and their families."



Eugene F. Winfree
USAG Baumholder

"I think the medical treatment we receive in Baumholder is great, but if you have to go to Landstuhl, and you're retired, the bureaucracy will get you. Of course the medical treatment you get there is top-notch."



Pfc. William Publicover
C Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st
Cavalry Regiment, Bidingen

"It's no good. I'm bipolar. It took two weeks for me to be considered to be seen so I could get medicine that I physically need."



William Parent
USAG Giessen

"I am extremely satisfied with the medical system, especially with the Butzbach Health Clinic and with the Tricare system. The Butzbach Health Clinic is of tremendous help, especially for retirees. I can honestly say that I am very well satisfied."

Acting secretary proud to serve with Soldiers, families

Commentary by
Pete Geren

Acting secretary of the Army

On March 9 I assumed duties as your acting secretary of the Army. I am honored to lead and to care for our Soldiers, their families and our Army civilians in this pivotal, dangerous time in the history of our great nation.

We are an Army at war — fighting a ruthless, adaptive and determined enemy. I am inspired and humbled by your selfless service, your sacrifices and your record of accomplishment. Your "boots on the ground" have enabled historic elections in Afghanistan and Iraq. Your presence will be required to enable democracy to take hold in these countries, to defeat our enemies, to underwrite America's ability to protect its citizens and to defend its interests wherever threatened.

Seldom has our nation asked so much of our Army and of our Soldiers and families — but as always, our Army is getting the job done. You are answering the call to duty. You are serving proudly, whenever and wherever needed — making enormous contributions and sacrifices in so many vital roles:

- ◆ Fighting with courage and valor at the forefront of the war on terror;

- ◆ Deterring aggression in troubled regions worldwide;



Pete Geren

- ◆ Securing our borders and preventing attacks on our nation, and;

- ◆ Supporting civil authorities to respond to natural disasters at home and abroad.

As a result of your hard work, we have much to be proud of. I stand in awe of the patriotism and the commitment to our Army values that you demonstrate every day in accomplishing our mission. Through your hard work, you have earned the trust, confidence and respect of the American people whom we serve. We will maintain this trust.

We remain resolute in our determination to preserve peace and freedom for America. To build the strategic depth we require — to be able to respond decisively to any and all missions we may be assigned — we are focusing on five major challenges:

- ◆ Achieving full spectrum

readiness;

- ◆ Managing stress on the force;

- ◆ Growing the Army;

- ◆ Protecting the force, and;

- ◆ Building the Army of the future.

Working together — adhering to our four overarching strategies and guided by the ideals reflected in our Army values and our warrior ethos — we will realize our Army vision. We will "remain the preeminent landpower on Earth ... the ultimate instrument of national resolve ... that is both relevant to, and ready for, the challenges of the dangerous complex 21st century security environment."

I have been proud to serve as your undersecretary of the Army during the tenure of the Honorable Dr. Francis J. Harvey. His commitment to each of you — who represent the very best our nation has to offer — was the hallmark of his service. As we continue our work together, I assure you my top priority remains our Soldiers and their families.

Again, I am honored to lead and to care for our Soldiers, families, Army civilians and veterans. Together, we will build on our record of accomplishment. We will continue to meet the needs of the nation. I look forward to serving with you and for you. Army Strong.

Letters to the editor

Your article in the *Herald Union* about Wetzel Elementary School was very good. Thank you so much for highlighting what goes on at Wetzel every day. I even sent the link to the online *Herald Union* to my family back in the States to read.

Susan Chamness
Baumholder

I just wanted to thank you for the fine article in the *Herald Union* about the training accident at Grafenwöhr in 1960. It was very well done, and it was also very accurate.

I sent the link to many of my friends to whom I had never mentioned this accident. I'm also sending a copy of the *Herald Union* to Wayne Gordon — the friend mentioned in the piece.

Bob Parker
Bidingen

Herald Union masthead

The *Herald Union* is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for members of the U.S. Army Garrison Hesse. Contents are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content is the responsibility of the USAG Hesse Public Affairs Office. No payment will be made for contributions. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. This is a biweekly publication printed by AdvantiPro GmbH. Our office is in Building 1205 on Hanau's Yorkhof Kaserne. Circulation is 9,750 copies. For commercial and classified advertising rates call Susanne Daugill at civ (0631) 3033 5537, email suzie@advantipro.de or fax civ (0631) 3033 5535. Address: USAG Hesse, Herald Union, Unit 20193 Box 0001, APO AE 09165-0001; Telephone: mil 323-3257; civ (06181) 180-3257; Fax: mil 323-2149, civ (06181) 180-2149; Email: 104heraldunion@104asg.army.mil; Home page: www.usaghessen.eur.army.mil.

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News flash

Pet food recall

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service-Europe and Defense Commissary Agency, in cooperation with the Food and Drug Administration, announced the recall of several dog and cat food products. Items include food manufactured between Dec. 3, 2006, and March 6, 2007, by Menu Foods, IAMS/Eukanuba and P&G Pet Care. Visit www.menufoods.com/recall for more information about specific products. (DeCA/AAFES-Europe Releases)

USAG Hessen journalists honored

Several local military and civilian journalists and broadcasters were among Department of the Army-level winners in the annual Keith L. Ware Journalism Competition. The 3rd Corps Support Command's *Sustainer Magazine* took third place in the Magazine category and first in the Special Achievement in Print Media category, the *Herald Union's* Susan Huseman took first in the Commentary category and second in the Story Series category, 1st Armored Division's Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr. earned an honorable mention in the Sports category, 3rd COSCOM's Sgt. Mary Ferguson claimed an honorable mention in the Photojournalism category, the *Herald Union's* Kelly Deichert took first place in the Stringer category, and the 1st AD's website was first in the Web-based Publication category followed by the *Herald Union Online* in second place. AFN-Hessen earned two second-place awards for a Local Television Newscast and their Command Information Plan. (IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs)

Bonus extended to civilians

The Army has expanded its \$2,000 referral bonus program to include civilian employees. The bonus, previously opened only to Soldiers and Army retirees, is for referring a prospective applicant who enlists, completes basic training and graduates from advanced individual training. For more information visit <https://www.usarec.army.mil/smart> or call 1-800-223-3735, extension 6-0473. (ARNEWS)

Westling tickets correction

A News flash item in the last edition reported that military members can receive a free ticket to World Wrestling Entertainment events worldwide when they provide valid identification to the box office on performance day. We inadvertently omitted a clause that said the tickets are "based on availability and exclude WrestleMania events." We regret the error. (American Forces Press Service)

CID agents sought

Qualified Soldiers are sought to become Criminal Investigation Command special agents. Soldiers must be E-5s or below, U.S. citizens, have a GT score of 110 or higher, have 60 college credits and no court martial convictions. If interested visit www.cid.army.mil or call Hanau CID at mil 323-2863, Wiesbaden CID at mil 337-6554 or Baumholder CID at mil 485-8021.



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Too big for the cash drawer

Spc. Carla Bacilio, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, accepts a check for \$5,000 worth of AAFES merchandise as the winner of the Sony/Military Star Shopping Sweepstakes March 22 at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. The check was presented by Petra Richardson, sales and merchandising manager. Bacilio's husband, Leonardo, also of 5-7th ADA, filled out a form during the contest last Thanksgiving. He was away on an exercise and couldn't be there to receive the prize. "I wasn't expecting this. I thought maybe a TV. We just had our anniversary so maybe we'll use this to celebrate," Bacilio said. Ten worldwide AAFES locations had prize winners of \$5,000 in the contest, officials said.

Retiree update: Information about Social Security, interment in national cemeteries

Military Social Security rate

When a veteran goes to apply for Social Security benefits, he or she should take a Form DD-214. Social Security then computes the extra benefit and it is added to the monthly payments.

In many cases the Social Security office asks for a DD-214, and this benefit is computed automatically — but not always. If you are a veteran who is collecting Social Security and you're not sure whether you are receiving this benefit, call your local Social Security office and ask them to check your account.

If you are not getting the benefit, take your DD-214 to your local Social Security office and apply. They will compute your new benefit and you will receive a larger monthly check plus retroactive benefits computed from the time you started collecting Social Security.

Remember, military retirees and government retirees who use military time to compute "time in service" do not qualify for this benefit. For more information visit www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm.

Burial in national cemeteries

The spouse of an eligible veteran is eligible for interment in a national cemetery of his or her choice, even if that veteran is not buried or memorialized in a national cemetery.

Additionally, the spouse or surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States

whose remains are unavailable for burial is also eligible for burial.

The surviving spouse of an eligible veteran who subsequently remarried a non-veteran and whose death occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2000, is also eligible for burial in a national cemetery, based on his or her marriage to the eligible veteran. However, a former spouse of an eligible individual whose marriage to that individual has been terminated by annulment or divorce, if not otherwise eligible, is not eligible for interment in a national cemetery.

Minor children of eligible veterans are eligible. For purpose of burial in a national cemetery, a minor child is a child who is unmarried and is: (bullet) Under 21 years of age; (bullet) Under 23 years of age and pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution; or (bullet) Any

age but became permanently physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before reaching age 21, or before reaching 23 if pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution. Proper supporting documentation must be provided.

Provided certain conditions are met, a former member of the armed forces may be buried, if desired, in the same grave with a close relative who is already buried and is the primary eligible. (Courtesy of the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Retirement Services Office)



USAG Hessen blotter

Compiled by the U.S. Army Garrison
Hessen Directorate of Emergency Services

March 5

Hanau: A Soldier was charged with failure to pay just debt after the Soldier was unable to pay for a taxi ride and was apprehended by German police.

March 6

Wiesbaden: An NCO was charged with wrongful possession and use of a controlled substance (marijuana) after the NCO tested positive for THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, during a unit urinalysis.

March 7

Giessen: A Soldier was charged with traffic accident with damage to private property and failure to yield the right of way after the Soldier collided with another car while driving.

March 8

Baumholder: An NCO was charged with traffic accident with damage to private property and inattentive driving after the NCO struck a car while driving.

March 9

Wiesbaden: An NCO was charged with owning an unregistered vehicle and failure to obey a general order after his vehicle was observed with an expired registration decal.

March 10

Giessen: A Soldier was charged with assault consummated by a battery and drunk and disorderly conduct after the Soldier and a local national became involved in a verbal altercation that turned physical.

March 11

Hanau: A Soldier was charged with fleeing the scene of a traffic accident, traffic accident with damage to private property and host nation property, and inattentive driving after the Soldier hit a fence with his vehicle and fled the scene.

March 12

Hanau: A Soldier was charged with larceny of AAFES property after he was observed via video surveillance camera taking a video game card, hiding it in his clothes and leaving the store without paying for the item.

March 13

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with traffic accident with damage to host nation property and failure to judge proper distance after the Soldier struck a guardrail with his vehicle.

March 14

Baumholder: An officer was charged with traffic accident with damage to private property and following too closely after the officer struck a vehicle with his car.

March 15

Wiesbaden: An NCO was charged with owning an unregistered vehicle and failure to obey general order after the subject failed to reregister his vehicle.

March 16

Wiesbaden: A Soldier was charged with larceny of private funds, AWOL and damage to government property after the Soldier obtained another Soldier's bank account information and used the information to purchase over €12,000 of merchandise. The subject also altered his birth date on his military ID card in the event he was caught.

March 17

Giessen: A Soldier was charged with traffic accident resulting in damage to property and failure to maintain control after the Soldier hit a tree with his vehicle.

March 18

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with fleeing the scene of a traffic accident and traffic accident with damage to private property after the Soldier, while driving a vehicle, ran off the road, landed in a ditch and fled the scene.

Troops to Teachers

New Hire in Advance Program accepts service members for teaching positions before they retire

By Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

Military members with a desire to mentor and shape young minds now may not have to face the anxiety of an uncertain future when retiring or separating from the military.

In a new twist on Troops to Teachers, a program that has long been producing teachers out of the ranks of the military, qualified service members can now be hired in advance to work as teachers in certain school districts.

The Hire in Advance Program, launched in Las Vegas, Denver and Newark, N.J., guarantees teaching jobs for eligible military up to three years before they retire or separate from active duty, Wayne Rees, of Mount West Troops to Teachers in Las Vegas, said in an interview.

Service members who qualify for the Hire in Advance program can send in applications and interview with school officials, who can officially hire them up to three years before they leave active duty, Rees explained. During that time, military members can finish the necessary schooling and teaching requirements, creating a seamless transition between active duty and the start of their new careers, he said.

The program was unveiled in Las Vegas in June, and the first two Hire in Advance Program agreements were awarded. Since then, Troops to Teachers has been working with states, especially those with high-needs areas, to expand the program, Rees said.

"We absolutely are offering it to every state and every school district, with the hopes that we can help our military personnel have a seamless transition from the military into teaching kindergarten through 12th-grade public schools," he said.

To qualify for the Hire in Advance Program, service members must have a bachelor's degree and meet other Troops to Teachers requirements, such as

having served six or more years in the military honorably. The program offers counseling and referral services for each state, as well as a \$5,000 stipend to help pay certification costs. Service members may also qualify for an extra \$5,000 if they are hired at a high-needs school.

Air Force Maj. Dayton Rogalski, chief information officer for the Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., hospital, was one of the first service members awarded a hire in advance agreement. His 23-year military career ends in about three months, and he hopes to become a business education teacher at the high school level, he said.

Rogalski, who has teaching experience from his time in the military, said he wants to become a teacher because he believes youth are the future of America. "The Troops to Teachers program has enabled me to pursue teaching through their support and funding," he said. "They have delivered on all the points they presented."

Rogalski said he believes service members make good teachers because they bring military values, patriotism and cultural experiences to the classroom. Rees agreed, noting that teaching fits a need many service members have to give back to the community.

"Because they have been dealing with and leading young men and teaching them, it's a natural transition," Rees said. "This is a program that has a variety of skill sets that will translate from the military into civilian life."

Troops to Teachers and the Hire in Advance Program are both open to military spouses as well, Rees said. Spouses are not eligible for the two \$5,000 stipends, but can receive up to \$600 to help with certification, he said. Teaching is a convenient career for military spouses, he pointed out, because the demand for teachers ensures employment, even with frequent moves.



Troops for Teachers is open to Soldiers and their spouses.

Wounded Soldier Hotline

Continued from page 1

health care system. Recent events at Walter Reed Army Medical Center identified the need to improve the administrative processing of wounded Soldiers. The Army is committed to providing outstanding medical care and support for the men and women who have volunteered to serve their country, officials said.

Leaders in Soldiers' chains of command should be aware that the call center exists and that it was not created to circumvent the chain of command. It gives leaders another opportunity to assist their Soldiers in navigating the military health care system and to

ensure wounded Soldiers and their families receive the best medical care and services possible.

"I am directing every leader within our Soldiers' chains of command from squad leader to commanding general to reexamine how we support our Soldiers when issues are brought to our attention," said Gen. Peter Schoomaker, Army chief of staff. "Our wounded Soldiers and their families expect and deserve the very best care and leadership from our Army, and I am sure each of you shares our commitment to see that we deliver." (Courtesy of the Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs Office)

News flash

Washing machine recall

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, announces the voluntarily recall of front loading Maytag and Samsung brand washing machines. Water leakage onto the electrical connections could pose a fire hazard. The recall involves certain Maytag washers with model numbers beginning with MAH9700 or MAH8700 and Samsung model numbers WF306BHW or WF316. The model and serial numbers are on a tag at the bottom of the door opening. Consumers are advised to stop using the recalled machines immediately and to contact the supplier for information on how to receive a free repair. Visit Maytag's website at www.washerrecall.com or Samsung's site at www.Samsung.com/washerrecall for more information. (AAFES-Europe Communications)

Latest gas prices

With the Army and Air Force Exchange Service now updating the price of fuel on a weekly basis, it pays to purchase fuel coupons when the prices are lower. Check the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen home page at www.usaghessen.eur.army.mil and click on the "AAFES fuel prices" slider for the most current prices.

Free classified ads

The *Herald Union's* publisher, AdvantiPro GmbH, is offering free classified advertisements through the end of May. To place an ad, send it to class@herald-union.com, call civ (0631) 3033 5537 or fill in the online form at www.herald-union.com. Ads can also be submitted at the AIU Insurance agency on Ludwig-Wolker-Str. 12 in Mainz-Kastel.

Volunteer buglers sought

Volunteer buglers and trumpeters are sought to participate in Armed Forces Day observances at veterans' cemeteries nationwide and overseas. "Echo Taps Worldwide" will be held May 19. Visit www.echotaps.org to volunteer. (American Forces Information Service)

New job for Robinson

Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., 1st Armored Division commander, has been named to move on to a new assignment as commander of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Md. (DoD News)

Newest NCOs welcomed

3rd Corps Support Command celebrates military achievement

Story and photos by Spc.
David Chapman
3rd Corps Support Command
Public Affairs Office

The 3rd Corps Support Command officially welcomed its new noncommissioned officers in a ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Airfield's Community Activity Center March 13.

The ceremony was the last of its kind to be held by the COSCOM before it relocates to Fort Knox, Ky., this summer and subsequently reflags as the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

The ceremony is a tradition symbolizing the progression of a Soldier's career from lower enlisted to the ranks of sergeant and above. It is considered an important rite of passage for noncommissioned officers.

"A ceremony like this is so important to maintaining the traditions of the corps," said Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Blade, 485th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, command sergeant major. "It is our role as senior noncommissioned officers to teach these traditions and pass them on. If we don't, no one will."

The ceremony included segments where the history and meaning of the



Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, 16th Sustainment Brigade (Provisional), welcomes Sgt. Sunny Guerin, 485th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, to the NCO corps.

Soldiers and noncommissioned officers creeds were explained. Also the history of the noncommissioned officer corps was read.

For those new noncommissioned officers being indoctrinated into the corps, the ceremony had a special meaning.

"I think it is very important for us to be able to go through this ceremony because we are more aware of the importance of our career progression," said Sgt. Katherine Mallory, 19th Support Center. "It is also great to be able

to have all the other units in one NCO induction place, to share this together."

"Before you can be a leader you have to be a follower," said guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, 16th Sustainment Brigade (Provisional) command sergeant major. "You have to learn all those Soldier skills and be ready. Once you become a leader there is not any time to be learning then, you already have to be confident in your skills. Now, as a leader you must be in front of your Soldiers and be seen as a leader and an example."

Inductees performed the customary tradition of crossing the threshold from being enlisted Soldiers to becoming noncommissioned officers and signing into the corps. They were greeted and congratulated by Spencer and Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant, 3rd COSCOM command sergeant major.

Tennant shared some of his career experience and advice with those in attendance.

"In 1992 a book was devised by Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Tilly. It is called the NCO Guide. It is a manual for noncommissioned officers to read and keep themselves informed on what their duties and responsibilities are," said Tennant. "We [noncommissioned officers] have our own book. So it is my challenge to you to pick up the book, read it and know it."

"To the new Soldiers, stay out of trouble and do not let anything stand in the way of getting the promotions you want," said Mallory. "And for our leaders who have trained us, let us take the lead, let the new noncommissioned officers step out of the nest and come to the front."



Sgt. Shawn Burton, 19th Support Center, passes under crossed swords symbolizing entrance into the NCO ranks at a ceremony in Wiesbaden.

Teachers praise student motivation

By Karl Weisel

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Public Affairs Office

"These kids are hungry. If you set it up right they'll walk over coals for you."

That's how math and science teacher David Bruce described teaching at Wiesbaden Middle School. "One excellent thing among many is that these kids will take anything and do well at it."

Bruce, like many of his fellow teachers at the school, comes with a wealth of teaching experience. Before joining the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe staff as an educator in Italy some four years ago, Bruce taught at Central Washington University as a member of the Physics Department teaching staff.

"I love it — absolutely love it," said Bruce about teaching in Wiesbaden. "DoDDS is real family friendly. They've given me everything I asked for." That includes providing state-of-the-art technological support in the classroom such as smartboards and other equipment, he said.

"The teachers are outstanding," said education technologist David E. Leighninger. "We have three PhDs on the staff. This is the best school I've ever been in."

As teachers praised the student motivation at Wiesbaden Middle School, sixth-, seventh and eighth-graders were in the midst of annual TerraNova testing to check how well they are meeting academic standards in comparison to schools nationwide.

"We're testing them two days this week and two days next week," said Alexia Venglik, Wiesbaden

Middle School principal, explaining that with studies showing students do better on tests after a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast, parents were encouraged to help them meet that goal on test days. "We're testing in the same subject in one day with tests taking from an hour and a half to two hours."

Before starting the TerraNova each day, students were provided snacks and drinks. "We're giving them time to rest, relax and wake up before starting the testing at 8:30 a.m. "We're also giving them gum to chew during the tests," said Venglik. "We sent notes home to the parents encouraging them to make sure their children get to bed early on the night before testing, to have breakfast on test day and of course to have a good attitude about the tests."



Photo by Laura Votipka-Albrecht

Sixth-graders Josh Belis (left) and Caleb Hollars conduct an experiment to observe how a small, steady stream of water can move particles of soil, sand and gravel along a hillside and deposit them somewhere else in teacher Peggy Baird's environmental science class.

Other incentives to score well on the TerraNova tests include having students study test tips provided by the TerraNova company and making a concentrated effort to help students improve in weak areas identified on last year's test results. "We always look at last year's scores to identify potential weak areas," said Venglik.

Although last year's scores were "fairly even and above the norm," Venglik said the data did reveal some gaps among the school population.

"Our school improvement goal has focused on problem solving skills. One strategy used by teachers to strengthen that skill has been to include multistep

**Focus on Wiesbaden
Middle School**



directions in class activities in all subject areas," she said.

A school pep rally and having students and administrators from the high school talk to the middle school students about the importance of scoring well on the tests for future success were other incentives, Venglik said. "They told the students how important TerraNova is for placement at the high school. ... "I think they got the message that it's not something they can just blow off, that it has value for them."

"I feel like I'm learning a lot here," said eighth-grader Luis Camacho, whose favorite subjects are art and science. "It's cool. You get to make lots of friends from other places."

Camacho said besides the classroom experience, he also enjoys the extracurricular activities such as Outdoor Club available at Wiesbaden Middle School. "It's better than the States. You get to

travel and see different countries. And the teachers are nice here."

"I like my colleagues. The other teachers are wonderful to work with," said eighth-grade English teacher David Lawrence, a 10-year DoDDS-Europe veteran. "This is a wonderful location, a beautiful city."

"These kids are good kids," said math and algebra teacher Marty Beck. "There are lots of kids who are anxious to learn."

"This has been a great year," said the school principal. "The kids have been a good group. I hope they continue their efforts all the way through spring fever."

Venglik added that she was looking forward to a school musical, "Bugsy Malone Jr.," coordinated by band and music teacher Jena Hancock, to be presented March 20-22.

She also stressed the importance of parents making sure to re-register their children for the upcoming school year. "We are in the process of mailing home registration packets to every parent," she said. A Wiesbaden school-wide re-registration day — for Aukamm, Hainerberg, Wiesbaden Middle and High Schools — will be held at the middle school April 26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but parents do not have to wait until then to submit their completed packets. "They can bring them in any time," she said.

Knowing approximately how many students will be attending next school year is critical in scheduling classes and ensuring adequate staffing, which in turn ensures the best learning year for all WMS students, Venglik added.

School bits

Survey results are in

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools Customer Satisfaction Survey results are in and are available at the Department of Defense Education Activity website at <https://webapps.dodea.edu/css0607/reports>. To find your school go to step 3, select DoDDS, Europe, the district and the school.

Hanau Middle High notes

April 20 is Parent/Teacher Conference Day at Hanau Middle High School. There will be no school for students. April 20 is also a pre-registration day.

School holidays

April 6 is a teacher work day. There will be no school for students. Spring break will be held April 9-15. The Memorial Day holiday is May 28.

Scholarships and more

The Heidelberg District School Home Community Partnership Office is the European collection point for scholarships, grants, intern programs, contests and summer programs. Find out what's available at <https://204.218.241.60/scholars.nsf>.

Last day of school

The last day of school is June 8. Students and families who PCS or ETS before this date can receive credit for the school year if the child is in attendance for the entire day on May 17 and the sponsor has orders documenting the move. Call your child's school for details.

Run for office in Hanau

The Argonner Elementary School Parent Teacher Association holds board elections for next year on April 5 at 5:30 p.m., followed by Polish pottery and crystal bingo. For information send an email to losmendels@yahoo.com.

Learn about ASD

Learn about Autism Spectrum Disorder at a three-session, six-topic workshop April 17, 19 and 24 from 4:30-7:50 p.m. at Building 4445 in Lincoln Village in Darmstadt. Sign up by emailing chuck.york@eu.dodea.edu.

Essay contest

Homefront America, Inc. hosts an essay contest to award \$1000 scholarships to 25 military dependent children age 16 to 21. Essay and application are due by April 23. Complete details are available at www.homefront.america.org.

3rd Corps Support Command prepares to bid farewell to Europe

Print depicts European history

The 3rd Corps Support Command retention office is giving commemorative prints that honor the lineage and heritage of the 3rd COSCOM to reenlisting Soldiers from the unit.

Only 200 prints were produced for the reenlistment incentive to make the print and the reenlistment that much more special. Soldiers will also receive a certificate of authenticity signed by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, COSCOM commander, describing the origins and history of the unit.

The "Sustaining the Line" limited edition print commemorates the 49 years Soldiers and civilians of the forward deployed 3rd Corps Support Command supported United States Army Europe, joint forces, NATO and coalition units.

Depicted in the center of the print is the unit headquarters in Wiesbaden. Surrounding the building are prominent structures and historical figures from the four cities where the 3rd Corps Support Command resided in Europe. The centerpiece of the command are the Soldiers and civilians, as shown at the bottom of the print, performing their military duties in support of operations in the Balkans and Iraq, the two theaters the 3rd COSCOM Headquarters deployed to while stationed in Europe.

In June 1958 the command activated in Orleans, France, and provided support to the U.S. Army Communications Zone. Depicted in the Orleans mosaic is the Cathedral of Saint Croix, the French heroine Joan of Arc, and the bridge over the Loire River.

In April 1967 the command departed France and moved to Worms, Germany. Located on the Rhein River, Worms is famous for Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. Depicted in the Worms mosaic is the Dom St. Peter, bust of Martin Luther, and the Weintor (city entrance on the west bank of the Rhein). The command



A limited-edition print depicting almost 60 years of 3rd Corps Support Command's European history has been given as a reenlistment gift to COSCOM Soldiers, along with a certificate of authenticity signed by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally.

inactivated in Worms in June 1969.

In September 1974 the command was reactivated in Frankfurt. Depicted in the city scene is the Römer (old city hall).

In 1985 3rd COSCOM moved to its final location in Wiesbaden. Stationed at Wiesbaden Army Air Field, the headquarters deployed to Bosnia in support of Task Force Hawk and Falcon, and twice to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Depicted in the Wiesbaden mosaic are the Kurhaus (cultural center and casino) and the Markt Kirche (Market Church) rising behind the Stadtschloss (seat of the Hessen Parliament).

In June the 3rd COSCOM will leave Germany and move to Fort Knox, Ky., ending a five decade legacy of expeditionary logistics support throughout Europe and other theaters of operations.

The U.S. and German flags displayed in this print are shown in accordance with a 1958 agreement between Ger-

man officials and officials of the American Embassy, whereby the German flag receives the position of honor (on the right as seen from the steps of the headquarters building). The arrows and arrowheads of the 3rd COSCOM unit patch refer to items historically used in warfare and defense. The three arrowheads symbolize the designation of the 3rd COSCOM. The command adapted its official motto "Sustaining the Line" in the fall of 1977.

The artist, John Workman, retired from the U.S. Army in 2004 after 20 years of service. As a petroleum supply sergeant Workman was stationed throughout the U.S. and Germany and deployed in support of Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He retired from the 19th Support Center in Wiesbaden and started a graphics design business, Fortress Works, in Mainz. (Story and graphic courtesy of 3rd Corps Support Command Public Affairs Office)

3rd COSCOM lineage

- ★ Constituted Sept. 14, 1950, as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Logistical Command
- ★ Activated Sept. 19, 1950, in Japan
- ★ Allotted Nov. 23, 1951, to the regular Army
- ★ Inactivated March 20, 1953, in Korea
- ★ Activated Nov. 5, 1958, in France
- ★ Headquarters, 3rd Logistical Command, reorganized and redesignated June 24, 1961, as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Logistical Command (Headquarters Company, 3rd Logistical Command, concurrently disbanded)
- ★ Inactivated June 2, 1969, in Germany
- ★ Redesignated Sept. 23, 1974, as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Support Command, and activated in Germany
- ★ Redesignated Oct. 18, 1988, as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Corps Support Command
- ★ June 15, 2007, projected to depart Germany
- ★ Sept. 15, 2007, projected to be redesignated as the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command at Ft. Knox, Ky.

Ceremony honors 205 years of service

Story and photo by
Chrystal Smith

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs office

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden held its quarterly retirement ceremony March 7 honoring eight Soldiers with more than 205 combined years of military service.

Guest speaker, Col. Margaret W. Burcham, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District commander, presented the retirees with certificates of appreciation from President George W. Bush and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the American flag, and the Army retiree lapel pin. They were also individually recognized with medals of commendation for meritorious service.

Garrison and division leaders, spouses, family members and coworkers were present to congratulate the retirees following the ceremony held at the Community Activity Center.

"I love the Army for giving me a chance to be a Soldier, an individual and a member of a great organization," said Master Sgt. Paul Thompson, Jr., of the 3rd Corps Support Command safety office.

Thompson began his career at Fort Dix, N.J. and culminated it with the reception of the Meritorious Service Medal. During the ceremony, Thompson



Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Sherman accepts an American flag from Lt. Col. Margaret W. Burcham during the quarterly retirement ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Airfield March 7.

son recounted an experience in Advance Individual Training that served as inspiration for his success.

"A drill sergeant asked me to be the student first sergeant," said Thompson. "I don't know what possessed him to do it, but I have felt the repercussions of that trust to this day. I grew positively because of that confidence in my abilities to Soldier and lead."

Deputy G3 Operations Officer Lt. Col. Michael Foster, who began his career in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1982,

was honored for serving more than 25 years. After four years of service with the Coast Guard, he was accepted into the U.S. Army Officer Candidate Course at Fort Benning, Ga. and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in Air Defense Artillery in 1987.

South Korea native Sgt. Maj. Young Lee joined the military in 1977 and served in a number of logistics-based assignments that took him around the globe to places such as South Korea, Fort Benning, Ga. and Fort Sill, Okla.

He was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal to accent his Army career.

1st Sgt. Percy Black, Jr. began his career in Fort Sill, Okla. in 1982. He served several tours of duty throughout Germany to include Mannheim, Idar-Oberstein, Hanau and Schweinfurt.

Sgt. 1st Class Betty Franklin joined the U.S. Army in February 1984. Some of her assignments include Korea, Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Stewart, Ga. One of her fondest memories was seeing the transformation of young Soldiers into noncommissioned officers, reaffirming "what we do," she said.

From Soldier to spouse

Sgt. 1st Class Briant Julien's retirement marked the beginning of his life as a military spouse. After serving his country for 21 years he will remain in the area to support his wife as she completes her military career.

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Sherman joined the Army in 1983 in the Ordnance endured career management field. The Franklin, Minn. native completed assignments in Southwest Asia, the Balkans, South Korea, Fort Benning, Ga., and numerous tours in Germany.

Sgt. 1st Class Gary Bott, Sr., a native of Florida, started his military career as a Marine in 1971, and later joined the Army in 1987. His military career spanned nearly four decades. Bott summed it up by telling the audience, "I was doing a job I enjoyed."

Community news notes

Passport office closure

The U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Passport Office will be closed April 17-19 for employee training.

Spring Fest set

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden hosts a Spring Fest April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wiesbaden Fitness Center. The festival also includes Earth Day activities and a Kinderfest. The fun, rides and games include pony rides, face painting, dodgeball, the grand opening of the climbing wall and a skate ramp competition. For more information call mil 335-5466 or civ (0611) 408-0466.

Jobs available

Wiesbaden Bowling Center is hiring a cook, and a recreation aid. Both positions are flexible up to 20 hours per week and are needed for all shifts, weekends and holidays. Family members and off-duty Soldiers are encouraged to apply. Call mil 335-5238 or civ (0611) 408-0238 for more information.

Music events at library

The library is more than books. Check out the Wiesbaden Community Library for upcoming special events to include performances by the 1st Ar-

mored Division Jazz Combo at 2 p.m. April 7 and their Woodwind Quintet April 15 at 2 p.m.

Easter egg hunt

The Dexheim Community hosts an Easter egg hunt April 5 from 3-5 p.m. Enjoy story time with the Easter Bunny, egg decorating and refreshments. Children should bring their own Easter basket. For information call mil 335-5466 or civ (0611) 408-0466.

Bank closure

All Community Banks will be closed April 6-9 for Easter observances. Normal hours will resume April 10.

Monte Carlo bowling

Get ready for high-rolling excitement April 21 at the Wiesbaden Bowling Center and Mighty Main Lanes in Dexheim. Hit certain patterns of pins and win cash prizes. \$15 entry fee includes three games and shoe rental.

Pageant contestants needed

The Big Bucks for College program hosts a pageant April 21 at 6 p.m. at the Flyers Theater at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Contestants age 5-95 are



needed. Five crowns in separate divisions will be awarded. For information call civ (0611) 724-5875.

German classes

The Wiesbaden USO offers German language classes at the USO Cottage in Hainerberg Housing. To sign up or for more information call civ (0611) 721 010.

Olympic soccer program

Parents and youth are needed to help re-establish the Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program in Wiesbaden. Youth age 8-18, coaches and volunteer committee members are needed. For more information send email to odpwiesbaden1@yahoo.com.

Country music night

Enjoy the sounds of country music and line dancing at the Kastel Klub at Mainz-Kastel Storage Station every Friday from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Girl Scouts in Dexheim

Make new friends and learn new skills with the Girl Scouts. Troop 234 in Dexheim is looking for new girls as well as volunteers for troop functions. Call civ (0176) 234 34978 or send email to Erica.r.wilson@us.army.mil for more information.

Plan carefully when organizing move

Detailed inventory can help when filing claims for loss, damage

By Heidi Gruetzmacher
Wiesbaden Legal Center

If you are preparing to move, protecting your interests for a potential claim should be done long before the movers pick up your possessions.

Always expect the worst case scenario — the warehouse burns down or the ship sinks. You have to prove what you owned and shipped and its value.

Inventories can never be prepared well enough to document the value of your items. Keep receipts for items valued over \$100. If receipts aren't available get appraisals for valuable items before shipment. Do not ship your receipts or other documentation of ownership and value; hand carry these important documents.

If you own any high value items, take pictures of them for your records. Consider purchasing private insurance to protect against loss and damage. The maximum amount that can be paid for any loss or damage to personal property is \$40,000. Within this limitation there are maximum amounts allowable for certain items. For example, if a stereo system worth \$5,000 is lost in shipment, the maximum amount that can be paid per item is \$1,000 and \$4,000 per shipment claim.

The maximum allowance for all audio recordings (CDs, cassette tapes, records) is \$3,000 per claim. If you own 250 CDs you may already exceed this maximum allowance.

The transportation shipping guide, "It's Your Move," contains a list of maximum allowances for particular items.

You may also obtain the maximum allowances for items from your local Claims Office. Ask for an allowance list.

When the carrier arrives to pick up your goods, pay close attention to the inventory prepared by the carrier. Ensure that items valued over \$100 are listed separately on the inventory.

It is best to hand carry jewelry; however, if you decide to ship it, make sure each piece is separately listed on the inventory. A carton labeled "clothes" will not be sufficient to substantiate that you shipped a fur or expensive leather coat.

Make sure such expensive clothes are listed separately on the inventory. Likewise, a carton labeled "figurines" will not be sufficient to show that expensive figurines (e.g., Lladro or Hummel) were shipped. Have expensive figurines separately listed.

Cartons marked "dishes" or "glassware" do not substantiate shipment of expensive fine china or crystal. Ensure cartons containing expensive crystal or china are labeled as such.

Check your inventory for a listing of preexisting damage. The carrier will use exception and location symbols, which can be found at the top of the inventory.

If you disagree with a par-

ticular item, note your disagreement on the remarks/exception part of the inventory above the signature line before you sign the inventory sheet. If the carrier prepares a High Value Items Inventory, make sure it adequately identifies all expensive items.

At time of delivery you may be requested to verify delivery of these items by signing the carrier's copy of this separate inventory.

Before you sign such an inventory at delivery, open every carton to visually verify receipt of these items. Failure to report the loss of these items at time of delivery could cause a claim to be denied.

When your shipment arrives, check whether all items or cartons listed separately on the inventory actually arrived. The items or boxes should have number stickers. The numbers on these stickers are the same as the inventory number. Mark off the corresponding number

A carton labeled "clothes" will not be sufficient to substantiate that you shipped a fur or expensive leather coat. Make sure such expensive clothes are listed separately on the inventory. Likewise, a carton labeled "figurines" will not be sufficient to show that expensive figurines (e.g., Lladro or Hummel) were shipped.

of the items from your inventory sheet.

This is the easiest way to ensure that all items/boxes arrived. Any items not marked off on the inventory are most likely missing. Enter those inventory numbers and items on DD Form 1840. Next check for obvious damage and list those on the same form.

Don't let the carrier rush you; they cannot leave before you sign the form. If there is not enough room on the sheet use a blank sheet of paper and mark it "continuation sheet DD Form 1840."

It is the goal of the Army Claims Service to pay Soldiers' and civilian employees' claims fairly and expeditiously. However, the Personnel Claims Act requires proof that the loss occurred and of the value claimed, which can be difficult at times.

For more information about your next move or any claims issues, contact your outbound shipping counselor or local claims office. At Wiesbaden Army Airfield the Claims Office is located in Building 1023N and can be reached at mil 337-4711/4714/4715 or civ (0611) 705-4711.




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Spc. Steven Bigbee, Company C, 123rd Main Support Battalion, demonstrates his outside micrometer to Jessica Wolfe during a math fair at Dexheim Elementary School.

Dexheim Elementary School celebrates Pi Day

Story and photo by
Carole Mann

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

Dexheim Elementary School children participated in entertaining and rewarding festivities during their annual math fair March 14.

Teachers spent a month focusing on the importance of math and how it is used in the students' everyday lives.

They began the program on the 100th day of school, Feb. 14, and worked on projects, songs and games to share with family and peers March 14 in honor of National Pi Day.

"The kids had fun with their projects and they learned math in a fun way," said Gretta Long, kindergarten teacher and math fair coordinator.

Guest speakers spoke with students about how they use math in their jobs. Manfred Casper, a retired military pilot for the German air force, spoke to students and showed them a slide presentation to demonstrate how math helped him in his military career.

Spc. Steven Bigbee, machinist for Company C, 123rd Main Support Battalion, demonstrated to students how math has helped him in his job.

Each student was asked to make a project to demonstrate a new math skill they have learned. Brianna Rice, a fourth-grade student, made a poster and demonstrated the four basic math operations.

"Ms. Ragan helped me glue the stuff on the poster board and she helped me with the answers of the multiplication and division problems," said Rice.

"I did a project on Albert Einstein. His birthday is today and it is National Pi Day," said Ian Hammock, a first-grade student.

Fifth-grade student Katrina Peterson researched different types of numerals such as Roman, Arabic/Indic and Egyptian. "I wanted to do something interesting, so I drew a picture of a pyramid and in the bricks I wrote the Egyptian numerals," said Peterson.

The fair closed with an assembly where the children performed their pi cheer and sang math songs. They received participation certificates for their projects and awards were given out to first, second and third-place winners.

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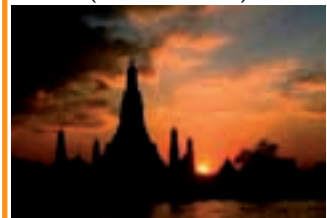
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Soldiers, family members honored

**Story and photos by
Ignacio "Iggy"
Rubalcava**

*U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office*

The heroes and heroines of Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, were honored during an awards ceremony March 8 at the Hall of Champions. The Soldiers of Co. A, 1-6th Infantry, were the last to return to Baumholder after an extended deployment in Iraq.

Spouses from Co. A, 1-6th Infantry, were the first to be honored for their volunteer service.

As the narrator for the ceremony, Capt. Denton Lomax began by introducing the Family Readiness Group awardees. "As we move to duty's call, we leave our wives behind to become single mothers, run our families, and endure the long, uncertain separation and loneliness that only others who experience it can understand. At this time we would like to present awards to the wonderful ladies that have made this sacrifice," said Lomax.

Brandi Harrison was presented the Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award for having volunteered more than 500 hours of her time. Harrison was also presented the Family Readiness Medallion for her service as the company Family Readiness Group leader.

The Bronze Presidential Volunteer Service Award for 100 hours of volunteer service

went to: Brenda Grandia, Nicole Harmon, Kersten Ingle, Danielle Lesan, Nancy Lynn, Allyson Schreiber, Amanda Stern and Pam Wilson.

The women also received the Division Scroll of Appreciation.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Susanne Guillory and Meryem Martinez.

Silver Stars awarded

The highest award of the day, the Silver Star, was presented to Sgt. Ivan Reza and Sgt. 1st Class Leon Richardson. On Oct. 20, 2006, Reza moved into the line of enemy fire in disregard of his own safety to provide aid as a combat medic to a critically wounded Soldier. Though wounded himself, Reza refused aid and continued treating the wounded Soldier until they reached the battalion aid station.

On Nov. 28, 2006, Richardson's Bradley Fighting Vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device, rolling the vehicle onto its side, killing the driver and wounding Richardson and two other Soldiers. Despite his injuries, Richardson immediately established security and began treating the wounded. As the on-scene commander, Richardson coordinated for medical evacuation of the wounded and additional combat power. He also directed the search of three buildings, resulting in the



Brig. Gen. David Hogg, 1st Armored Division assistant division commander, presents Staff Sgt. Jason Guillory with a Bronze Star as Guillory's wife, Susanne, and daughter look on.

detention of several suspected insurgents. Continuing to refuse medical treatment, Richardson remained at the site for five hours until the fallen Soldier was recovered.

The Silver Star is the fourth highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces. It is also the third highest award given for valor in the face of the enemy.

Staff Sgt. Jason Guillory

was awarded the Bronze Star with valor device.

On Oct. 20, 2006, Guillory's patrol came under heavy enemy machine gun fire in Hit, Iraq, resulting in two critically wounded Soldiers. Guillory's calm and professional actions allowed for the rapid evacuation of the wounded Soldiers, helping to save their lives. He then controlled other ground forces and

aircraft to decisively engage the enemy.

When awarded for bravery, the Bronze star is the fourth-highest combat award of the U.S. Armed Forces and the ninth highest military award.

Other presentations included five Purple Hearts, two Army Commendation Medals, 91 Combat Infantry Badges, seven Combat Action Badges and four Combat Medical Badges.



Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, present each other with Combat Infantry Badges.



Pam Wilson is presented a Bronze Presidential Volunteer Service Award by Lt. Col. Daniel Walrath, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, commander.

Seventh-grader wins European spelling bee

By **Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava**
*U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office*

Rachel Money takes spelling seriously. The Baumholder American Middle School seventh-grade student showed everybody how serious she was about spelling by winning the Europe-level spelling competition March 7 at Ramstein Elementary School.

Thirty-eight students from Department of Defense Dependents Schools throughout Europe faced off for 27 rounds of spelling for three-and-a-half hours.

It was one of the longest spelling bees on record, according to spelling bee coordinators.

After 27 rounds and a few championship words, Money was given her 30th and final word to spell, "comestibles," the plural form of something edible, usually a cooked item. This earned her the championship and an all expense paid trip to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington,

D.C., where she will compete against more than 250 spellers.

The National Spelling Bee will be held May 30-31.

Proven talent

Money has been competing in spelling bees since the second grade. Last year, as a sixth-grade student, she finished fourth in the Europe-level competition, competing against seventh and eighth-grade students.

"She's always been good with spelling bees and really enjoys it," said her father, Lt. Col. Mike Money.

"It's nothing that we have 'pushed' her into. She just enjoys it and is very serious about it," he said.

Before the competition the students were asked to introduce themselves and tell everyone what their favorite word.

Favorite word

Several students picked words used in everyday conversation. Money, how-

ever, told the judges her favorite word was *antidisestablishmentarianism*. Money was then asked to spell it.

When she was asked why she picked the word as her favorite, Money responded by saying she wanted to show everyone she was serious about competing.

According to a search in the Wikipedia free encyclopedia on the Internet, *antidisestablishmentarianism* originated in the context of the nineteenth century Church of England, where "antidisestablishmentarians" were opposed to proposals to remove the Church's status as the state church of England.

Antidisestablishmentarianism, with 28 letters, is commonly regarded as the longest accepted word in the English language and it might still be the longest word not created for the specific purpose of being a long word.

To make a long story short, Money cashed in on her talent and is on her way to spelling bigger and better words.



Contributed photo

Rachel Money

Musical talent earns junior honors

Isabelle Ignacio, a junior at Baumholder American High School, was one of more than 650 high school students in the Eastern region of the United States selected to perform in the 2007 Music Educators National Conference All-Eastern Honors Ensembles. Ignacio plays tenor saxophone and was selected to perform in the All-Eastern Honors Band.

With assistance from her music teacher, Robert Hartline, Ignacio prepared challenging music that was performed under the leadership of prominent conductors in this biennial event. The students spent three days rehearsing with one of four conductors during the Eastern Division Conference in Hartford, Conn., in preparation for their performance, which was held March 11.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP national advisory list of contests and activities for 2006-2007.

The MENC All-Eastern Honors Ensembles, consisting of a concert band, symphony orchestra, mixed chorus, and jazz ensemble, are organized by members of MENC: the National Association for Music Education. The concert band and symphony orchestra had approximately 150 instrumentalists and the chorus had approximately 350 vocalists. Student participation from each



Contributed Photo

Isabelle Ignacio with Michael Haithcock, the conductor of the Honors Band.

state was determined by a percentage of the total MENC Eastern Division membership, with no state given less than two percent representation.

Each of the state music educators associations in the Eastern Division (Conn., D.C., Del., Mass., Md., Maine, N.H., N.J., N.Y., R.I., Pa., Vt., Europe) oversee the selection process in their state during the spring and early fall of the year before the event and compile

ranked lists of recommended juniors and seniors for consideration. The method used to compile the lists varies from state to state, although all recommended students must have participated (or will be participating in) their home all-state festivals.

The committee builds the ensembles from the states presidents' ranked lists, trying to mimic the state population percentages in each group.

Greens fees rise

Greens fees at the Rolling Hills Golf Course will increase April 1.

The greatest increase will be \$4 for daily and \$6 for weekend greens fees. Senior enlisted (E6 and above) will now pay \$17 greens fees on a weekday and \$23 on a weekend. Junior enlisted (E1-E5) will see their greens fees go up \$2, to \$13 on weekdays and \$17 on weekends.

Prices for youth golfers will go down. Golfers age 16 years of age and younger will pay \$8 daily greens fees and \$10 weekend greens fees under the new fee structure — down from the current \$11 and \$15.

For regular golfers who want to save by paying annual greens fees, prices will increase by \$5 to \$250 for junior enlisted (E1-5); the annual family fee for junior enlisted will be \$350. Annual greens fees for senior enlisted golfers (E6 and above) will be \$550, or a \$750 family fee.

Installation Management Command-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation is making the adjustment to ensure Army golf courses stay on par with those in the civilian sector. Fee adjustments at Army golf courses will mean increased greens fees for some golfers. But according to an IMCOM-Europe MWR spokesperson, they are necessary to meet Department of the Army minimum standards.

Baumholder to host Rheinland Pfalz Days fest

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office

The city of Baumholder will host this year's Rheinland-Pfalz state fair (Rheinland Pfalz Tag) June 29 through July 1. The three-day event is expected to draw 100,000 people to this small corner of the Rheinland Pfalz.

During the weekend, the state of Rheinland-Pfalz will celebrate its customs and history. The three-day program includes the traditional elements of a state fair.

There will be stages where various media outlets like radio and television stations will broadcast live music and programs.

There will also be a regional stage and several streets will be lined with the "market of the cities and counties," which will include hundreds of displays from throughout the Rheinland Pfalz.

There will also be a display of the German Army and U.S. Forces and much more.

The traditional parade on July 1 alone will include 3,000 participants.

Along with the large number of visitors comes the logistical problems that so many people present when they concentrate in a community that has a population of approximately 4,800.

With so many people descending on Baumholder, residents of Smith Barracks and Wetzel Housing can expect challenges when traveling to and from their residences.

As military and city officials determine what routes city and military residents can use to get around during these three days, they will be published in the Herald Union, posted on the Baumholder website (www.baumholder.army.mil) and place on the Baumholder information channel.

Announcements and notices will also be placed on AFN radio so that U.S. residents receive the maximum notice possible.

"We hope that by providing residents with the most information possible we can lessen any inconveniences to both German and American community members during these three days when the 'eyes' for the Rheinland-Pfalz will be focused on Baumholder," said Bernd Mai, U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder public affairs specialist.

Local city officials have formed numerous committees that are addressing issues such as parking, traffic and street closures.

Other groups are busy handling issues such as media accommodations, sponsorship and infrastructure. A special committee has been formed to coordinate German and American military displays.

Online fest map

To get more of an idea of what the three days will entail, go to www.rlp-tag.de. Click on the "lageplan" link on the left and you will be taken to a map of the city of Baumholder. Zoom in on the map by clicking on it.

The blue dots mark the names of the stages and their location.

The white chef's hat marks the location of the food village.

The light blue lines show all the walkways that will be established.

The purple line shows the parade route on July 1.

The red dots on Bahnhofstrasse and Brühlstrasse show the location of the "market of the cities and counties."

The light brown areas are activity and display areas near stages.

The yellow areas mark additional display areas.

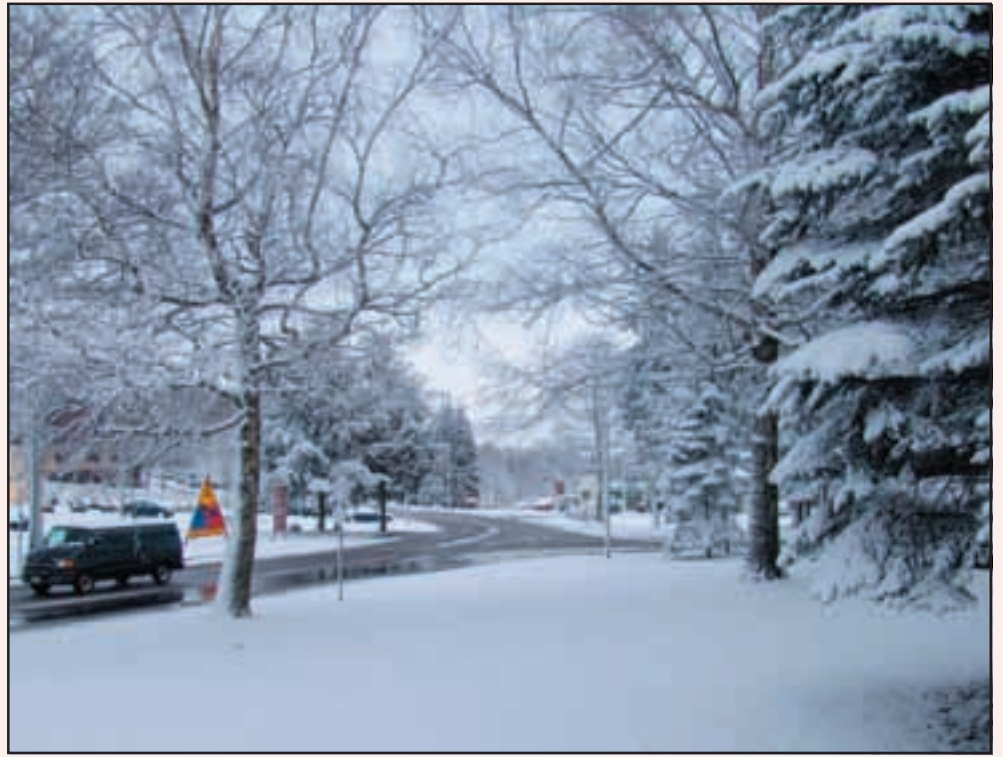


Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Winter, spring battle

Although spring has officially arrived, winter is still trying to leave its mark on Baumholder. Just because the weather has not been as extreme as in the past, motorists should not let their guard down. See related safety article below.

Wiper blades key safety feature

When was the last time you changed your windshield wiper blades?

According to a recent survey commissioned by Rain-X, one out of every three drivers on the road today fails to change his or her blades once a year, as recommended by the National Safety Council.

Seventy-eight percent of motorists only change their wiper blades after the blades themselves begin to impair their visibility and have become a safety hazard.

During the winter months, when inclement

weather is more prevalent, it is vital that motorists take every precaution possible to properly prepare themselves for adverse conditions.

According to the survey, the average person has at least three essential poor weather items in their vehicle at all times. Unfortunately, most drivers tend to consider their wiper blades a service replacement item, when in reality they are a vital component of a car's safety features.

The Baumholder Safety Office encourages motorists to make replacing their wipers an annual driving habit.

Host nation events

April 1, opening of the Japanese Garden, Kaiserslautern

April 2, market at Kirn 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April 5, opening of the horticultural show, Kaiserslautern

April 7, flea market at Homburg-Saar

April 8, start of the season of the Kaiserslautern Zoo

April 8, Easter ball at Berschweiler, Dr. Darge Hall

April 8, Easter concert at Ruschberg, Bürgerhaus, 8 p.m.

April 8, flea market at Idar-Oberstein, Vollmersbachstrasse

April 11, IVV Volksmarch at Hohenöllen

April 15, City Marathon at St. Wendel

April 28, opening of the parakeet farm,

Baumholder

April 30, Witches Rock Night Baumholder, Brühlhalle

April 30, Witches Night

May 5, flea market at Homburg-Saar

May 7, market at Kirn, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

May 8, May market at Birkenfeld

May 11-21, fun fair at Kaiserslautern

May 12, Herb market at Baumholder, Place de Warcq

May 13, flea market at Idar-Oberstein, Vollmersbachstrasse

May 17, castle fest at the Frauenberg castle

May 19-20, 80th Anniversary Voluntary Fire Department, Berglangenbach

May 20, International Museum Day, Baumholder

Tax Center clears state tax misconceptions

The United States of America is a country of 50 sovereign states. Every state has its own laws, including different tax structures. Some states have an income tax system similar to the federal income tax while others rely on other taxes such as property and sales tax. Every U.S. citizen has a state of legal residence even if he or she lives abroad. If you are a resident of a state that has an income tax you should be filing a state tax return every year.

The Baumholder Tax Center provides free preparation and electronic filing of both federal and state returns, as well as Puerto Rico. The Baumholder Tax Center will get the largest refund that you are legally entitled to.

In preparing your state tax return, it is important to know that some states have special provisions for service members serving outside their state of legal residence. For example, California and New York both allow qualifying residents to file taxes as non-residents and exclude all military pay. To qualify, a taxpayer must have maintained a home outside of the state, not had a home inside the state, and not been in the state for more than 30 days during the tax year. Even if a service member is able to exclude military pay he still may be taxed on his investments by his state of residence. State taxes can be confusing, which is why you should have the Baumholder Tax Center prepare your taxes.

Filing requirements apply to service members and

civilians alike.

Many civilians serving overseas think since no money is withheld from their paycheck, they are not required to file state income tax returns. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Civilians are still required to file state tax returns in most cases. Special provisions created for the military usually do not apply to civilians serving overseas.

Taxpayers often ask what will happen if they choose not to file. The answer is they run the risk of being audited by their state. If the taxpayer cannot justify why he did not file, he may owe back taxes, penalties and interest which are often higher than the original amount owed. While it may hurt to make a payment at the end of the year, it is better than paying an increased amount later.

Taxpayers may want to change their state withholdings to avoid paying money at the end of the year. In most cases, it is best to set the withholdings to cover the tax liability for the year. This way, the taxpayer does not owe money, but also does not give the government an interest-free loan for the year. Service members can change their state withholdings at the finance office. Civilians may set up an allotment to pay their state taxes.

Many taxpayers are unhappy with their state tax system and decide that they want to change their state of legal residence. Changing your state of legal residence is something that should be done with care.

Legal residence or domicile is the place where you live and intend to remain. Service members and civilians retain their state legal residence, regardless of where they move, until they establish legal residence in another state. For most Soldiers, their home of record is their state of legal residence.

To change your state of legal residence you must live in that state and intend to remain there. There is not a form that allows you to legally change your residence. Instead, states look at several factors to determine whether you are a resident, including where you vote, pay taxes, maintain your driver's license and car tags and own real estate.

While no one enjoys paying taxes, taxpayers should not change their state of legal residence without some thought. By maintaining residency you preserve entitlements you may want to exercise later. For example, if a taxpayer has a child he may want to maintain his current state of legal residence so that his child can attend a state school in his home state at the in-state tuition rate. It is a good idea to consider these facts before changing legal residency.

Non-military spouses who move with a military member to a new state may become legal residents of the new state.

When it comes to taxes, the best thing you can do is come to the Baumholder Tax Center. They can prepare and electronically file both your federal and state returns free of charge.



Photo by Kelsy Husted

Back to the 47th

Col. Robert Scurlock, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander, passes the guidon from Lt. Col. Jeanne Hooper to Lt. Col. Michel Russell during the 47th Forward Support Battalion's change of command ceremony on March 1 at the Hall of Champions. Russell returns as the battalion commander after serving as the support operations officer and the executive officer during the previous command.

Happenings

Fight night tickets

A boxing night will be held March 31 at the Hall of Champions. General admission tickets are \$4 and ringside tickets are \$5. Children under 12 are free. Call the Sports Office at mil 485-6156 or civ (06783) 6-6156



Runners needed

Runners are sought for a U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder 10-miler team. For more information call mil 485-1610.

Group exercise

Fitness Promotions offers a group fitness class. The group rate is \$50 or tickets may be purchased for \$4 each. The minimum number of participants is 15 and the maximum is 30. Call Honey Bueno at civ (06783) 6-7093 or mil 485-7093 to schedule a class.

Rolling Hills

The Rolling Hills Athletic Club is located in upper Wetzel

and includes an indoor pool and fitness center. The hours of operation are noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Daily, monthly and quarterly membership rates are available for individuals or families. Call the RHAC for information on pricing at civ (06783) 6-6156.

Family swim night is offered every Friday from 5-8 p.m. The cost is \$1 per person.

RHAC Pool is in need of lifeguards. Contact Warren Latham at civ (06783) 6-6156 or civ (06783) 6-6575.

Pool party rental

The pool and the party room can be rented for up to 25 guests. Rent includes three-hour usage, party room and tables and chairs for \$75. The room is available weekends from 1-4 p.m.





Photos by Mike Strasser
Photo left: Chefs and apprentices fill the kitchen with action at the Senior Chef of the Year competition. Photo above: Spc. Leia Heeter contributed this delicacy to Team Europe's Willy Wonka display for judging March 13.

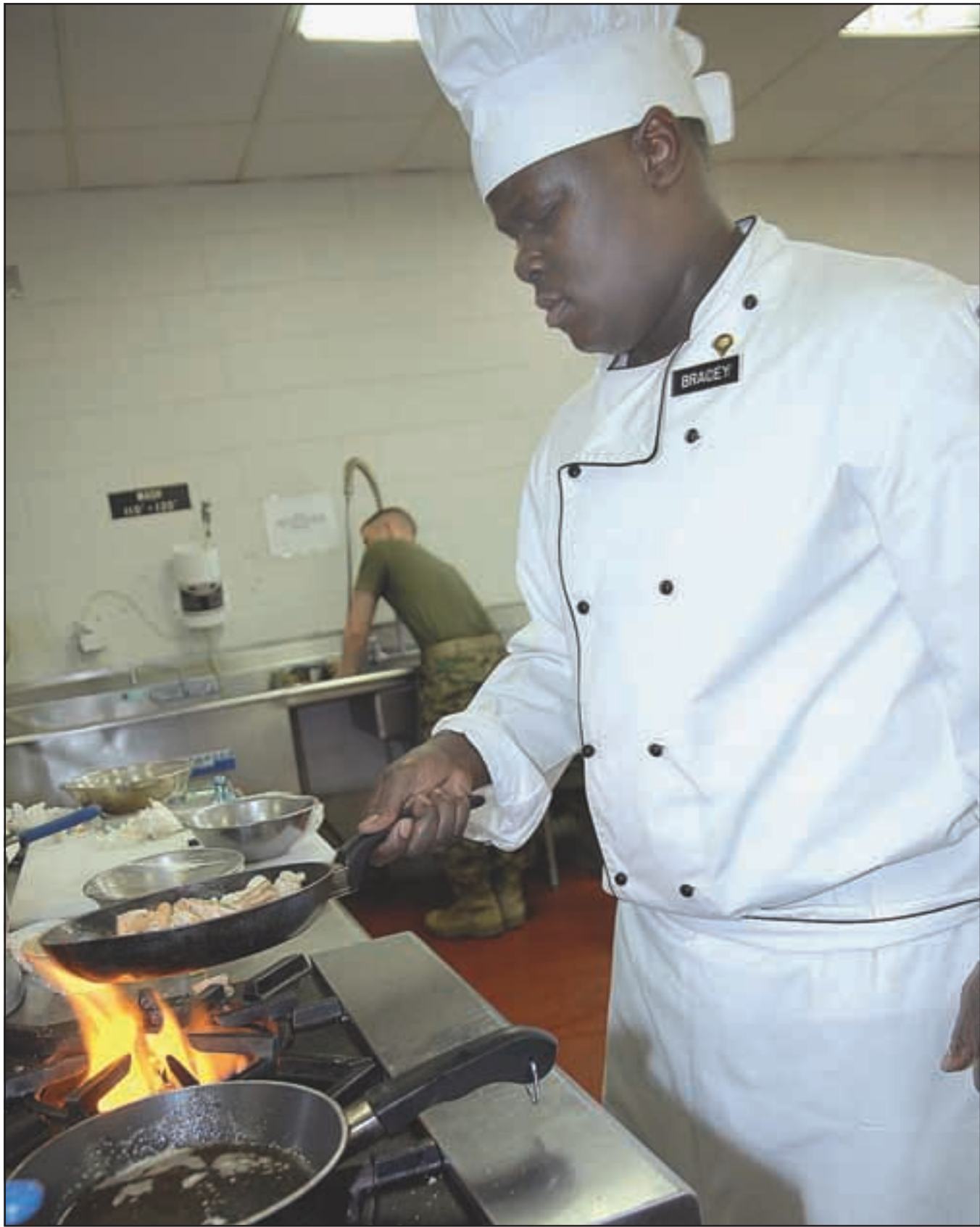


Photo by T. Anthony Bell

Kitchen commandos

Team Europe takes second place Installation of the Year honors at Culinary Arts Competition

By Susan Huseman
U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Public Affairs Office

Soldier chefs from Europe braised, roasted and sauted their way to a second-place team finish at the 2007 Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, Va., March 5-16.

Team Europe finished second in the Installation of the Year category. Individual winners included Spc. Leia Hetter, 5th Quartermaster Company, winning Best in Class — Contemporary Pastry, and Sgt. 1st Class Eric Jenkins, 29th Support Group, and Pfc. Garrett Andrews winning the Best Two Member Team in the Nutritional Hot Food Challenge.

The competition is rated the largest culinary competition in America, according to Maj. David Allen, director of the Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence. Seventeen teams and more than 150 food service professionals from the Army, Marines and Coast Guard competed.

Three U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Soldiers competed for Team Europe: Spc. Rodriquez Bracey, 123rd Main Support Battalion, Dexheim; Pfc. Kristian Clay, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division, Wiesbaden; and Spc. Welton Wilson, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor, 1st AD, Baumholder.

"It was a great opportunity to be there; to experience cooks from all over the world and get guidance from the international judges," said Bracey, who

earned silver medals in the Team Table and Field Cooking categories.

Surprised at success

Bracey said he felt fantastic about earning the second-place Installation of the Year honor. "It came as a shock. We were getting graded real hard by the judges. Many times we thought we would score higher than we did. We didn't know if we could pull it off."

Although tough, the judges were extremely helpful, according to Bracey. "The judges make you see that there are areas where you can do better," he said. "For example, when I did my Willy Wonka sculpture for the team table — they said it was good, but they also told me where I could do better to get the next higher medal. They pointed out the sculpture needed to be more realistic — there should be wrinkles in the sleeve of the jacket; that in real life you see a shirt cuff sticking out of the jacket sleeve and that's what you should see in the sculpture."

"If you didn't know something they would give you guidance. They would do whatever they could without compromising the competition," said Bracey.

The Mount Olive, N.C., native also earned a bronze medal in the Junior Chef of the Year contest. The competition pitted 14 junior food specialists against one another. "It was very intense," said Bracey. "I had been practicing for several weeks with different mystery baskets. So when I went into

the competition I was somewhat prepared."

The chefs were required to prepare a three-course meal using secret ingredients revealed to them as the timed contest began, said Bracey. "You have to use everything in the mystery basket, plus you can use other common pantry items. You make a three-course meal: an appetizer, soup or salad, a main course and a dessert. I had four hours to prep and cook, and 30 minutes to serve the judges."

"I made a seafood and wilted spinach salad; pistachio crusted, stuffed chicken (stuffed with chicken and habenero peppers) served with asparagus tips and tournee potatoes. My dessert was a strawberry-kiwi souffle."

A tournee potato is cut with seven smooth, curved sides, said Bracey. "It's one of the toughest cuts you can do," he said. The precise preparation demonstrates the level of knife skills a chef possesses.

A learning experience

"It was a great learning experience," said Clay of the competition. "It makes me appreciate my job even more because it showed me I can be a chef and a Soldier."

Clay and Wilson competed for Team Europe in the Student Team Skills Competition. Clay said the four-person team had to prepare a four-course meal in 75 minutes. "We planned the menu weeks ahead of the competition. I prepared the dessert. I made a molten lava cake with pistachio, sage, carrot and

caramel ice cream and macerated berries." Wilson was responsible for a tomato basil soup with spaetzle.

He also assisted Bracey in the junior chef contest. "I was his apprentice. I had to get his ingredients, make sure everything was clean, do his rough chops, made sure his hot plates were hot and cold plates were cold."

New to the kitchen

Wilson credits his success to the culinary workshop held at Hanau in December. "I'd never been in a kitchen cooking like that," said Wilson, explaining that upon reaching Baumholder, his first duty assignment, he deployed to Iraq. "We didn't cook there," he said. "We provided security."

Despite being green in the kitchen, Wilson, who redeployed in November, proved to be a fast learner at the Hanau workshop. "We had a week to train and a week to prepare our own meal. I took what I had learned and did my own thing with it. There were 30-40 people at the workshop and they picked 13 for the team. I was one of those 13."

The three Soldiers are now back at their dining facilities, but that's just fine with them. "You get picked to do these kinds of things because they know you'll come back and share the knowledge. It's a privilege, but you've got to come back and make the mission happen," said Bracey. *(Some information for this article courtesy of Fort Lee Public Affairs)*



Photo by Mark Strasser

Photo above: Dexheim's Spc. Rodriquez Bracey heats things up during the Junior Chef of the Year competition March 6. Photo left: The judging panel works their way through another plate and critique during the Contemporary Categories event, March 9, at the 2007 U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, Va.

Women's History Month celebrates diversity

Remembering all women, not just the famous ones

Commentary by
Petra Roberts

U.S. Army Garrison Giessen
Public Affairs Office

Americans celebrate the nation's diversity throughout the year with special observances ranging from Black History Month to Asian Pacific Islander Month. In March, women are the focus.

During Women's History Month, speakers often talk about the many well-known women who have shaped the course of history and ensured true equality for all Americans. They may also cite the women who helped shape them as individuals while they were growing up, such as their relatives, teachers and mentors.

But remarkable women are all around us. Rarely do speakers mention the mothers, volunteers and thousands

of other female role models who simply do what is right day after day in local military communities.

Susanne Flum, who is married to a redeployed Giessen Soldier, is one such woman who knows what it means to "stand by her man."

"Being an Army spouse is often a challenge," said Flum. "Having lived through so many years of field problems, deployments and separation from family and friends meant raising our children by myself, making decisions on my own. These experiences, however, definitely made me stronger and helped me grow."

Military spouses learn to move every few years, help their children adapt to new living environments, make a temporary home the comfort zone of their family — no matter where the Soldiers are sent. This is a challenge many women in the civilian world will never face.

Martha Battles, 1st Brigade Combat Team secretary, said she sees a lot



Photo by Petra Roberts

Shirley Johnson credits her mother for helping her "stay focused, to always look ahead and make a positive impact."

of advantages for women who are affiliated with the military. "The diversity women experience when in the military is amazing. You learn about other cultural backgrounds.

"Before I became a military spouse I had always been stable and adjusted to one environment. Now that I am a military wife I have learned quickly to adjust to different environments. This experience helped me open up to the world around me," Battles said.

"What always helped me to stay motivated and look ahead was my mother, Mary Freeman. She set the example," said Shirley Johnson, U.S. Army Garrison Giessen Equal Employment Opportunity specialist. "She always said, 'don't take no for an answer,' and stay focused. Her advice has helped me to always look ahead and make a positive impact on things."

While remembering those women who helped bring about change and promote social justice in the world is important, recognizing the day-to-day contributions of all women is equally vital. Happy Women's History Month.

Staying safe on two wheels

Warmer weather brings motorcyclists out in force

As winter weather changes to spring, motorcyclists are taking to the road in large numbers.

Motorcyclists quickly discover that taking the time to do a pre-ride risk assessment will pay off in safe cycling throughout the year. Although motorcycle accidents cannot be entirely prevented, through proper training and preparation they can be greatly reduced in number.

Approximately 80 percent of reported motorcycle crashes result in injury or death as compared to 20 percent of automobile accidents ending in fatalities.

An automobile has more weight and bulk than a motorcycle. It has door beams and a roof to provide some measure of protection from an impact or rollover.

It has airbags and seatbelts to hold passengers in their seats. It has a windshield washer and wipers to assist visibility in the rain.

A motorcycle suffers in comparison when considering vehicle characteristics that directly contribute to occupant safety. What a motorcycle sacrifices in weight, bulk and other crashworthiness characteristics is somewhat offset by its agility, maneuverability, ability to stop quickly and ability to swerve quickly when necessary.

Following are tips for enhancing motorcycle safety:

➤ **Mechanical inspection** — This is the most important process the rider should perform after the long period of not using the bike. The rule is, "if it can happen, it usually will," therefore preventive maintenance is imperative. Mechanical failure during a ride can be fatal. Taking a few minutes to conduct a proper inspection will help ensure safe operation of your motorcycle. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation developed the acronym "T-CLOCS" to help you remember the steps necessary to complete a proper inspection.

T-Tires and Wheels (condition, tread, air pressure)

C-Controls (levers,

cables, throttle)

L-Lights (lens/reflector condition, illumination)

O-Oils (oil level)

C-Chassis (fork, swing arms, shocks, chain/belt)

S-Side stand (condition, retention)

A pre-ride inspection should be a routine process before every ride.

➤ **Personal Protective Equipment** — Properly fitted PPE makes riding more comfortable and much safer. High visibility PPE is required by the military and preferred in all cases. As a minimum, the Army requires a helmet that meets DoD standards, eye protection, a jacket with long sleeves, pants, full finger gloves and over-the-ankle boots. At night a retroreflective garment is required. These are only minimum requirements with the best protection including clothing produced for the motorcyclist such as a leather or special textile suits.

➤ **The rider** — All riders should take a look at their riding periodically as most motorcyclists develop bad habits. Awareness of the tendency to do so can be minimized by practicing correct procedures.

Remember the riding tips and strategies learned in the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course or the Experienced Rider Course and exercise them in a large, open, unused parking lot or attend an MSF course offered by the USAG Giessen. Contact the USAG Giessen Safety Office at mil 343-1670.

A simple but powerful strategy to reduce risk is "S.E.E." — Search, Evaluate, and Execute. Search for factors that help calculate risks and positively affect riding. The strategy will allow more time to stop if a hazard is spotted. To enjoy riding don't be foolish; be properly clothed, well trained, informed and safe.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Motorcyclists must take extra precautions to stay safe when navigating Europe's busy roads and highways.

Friedberg to open Vehicle Processing Center

By Petra Roberts

U.S. Army Garrison Giessen Public Affairs Office

Soldiers and family members will be able to save time and gas money when a special Vehicle Processing Center opens on Friedberg's Ray Barracks in mid-April.

The center will provide vehicle processing services for 1st Brigade and other Soldiers preparing for a move this summer.

Members of the U.S. Army Garrison Giessen worked hard to have a contract in place that would enable privately owned vehicle owners to send their vehicles to the new destination directly from Friedberg

rather than having to travel to Mainz-Kastel.

The new Vehicle Processing Center, to be located in Building 3724 on Ray Barracks, will open its doors April 16 and will provide services through July 13.

Hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. It will be closed on American and German holidays.

"The advantages to the customer are quite self-explanatory," said Gene Schneck, USAG Giessen director of logistics. "It also saves the government money, because the Soldier will only get reimbursed for the travel distance to Friedberg instead of Mainz-

Kastel," Schneck said.

The rules for the contractor to accept your vehicle have not changed. Be sure to have your personal property checklist (DD1797), six copies of your orders with all amendments and a valid vehicle registration.

More information on how to prepare your vehicle for shipping can be obtained from the Giessen webpage at www.giessen.army.mil or by calling the Transcar office at mil 334-2723 or civ (06134) 69303.

When the Vehicle Processing Center opens it can be reached at mil 324-2811 or 2818.

Know what you'll need to ship your vehicle

Before heading to the Vehicle Processing Center to prepare your vehicle for shipping back to the United States, make sure you have or have checked the following items:

⇒ Personal property counseling checklist (DD1797).

⇒ Six copies of orders with all amendments.

⇒ Valid vehicle registration.

⇒ No more than a quarter tank of fuel. Vehicles equipped with gas stoves and propane bottles will be empty and sealed by the fire department (Coast Guard regulation).

⇒ A Power of attorney is needed for shipments performed by someone other than the service member. Always include a front and back copy of the service member's ID for POV shipments (spouse — if not listed on the orders, friend, supervisor, etc.).

⇒ The vehicle must have working parking and service brakes.

⇒ No leaks. Check for leak-

ing oil, fuel or other fluids. This is very important.

⇒ All vehicles being shipped must conform to U.S. specifications. They must have a Department of Transportation sticker on the driver's door and an Environmental Protection Agency sticker under the hood, unless 25 years or older, or a conversion contract is obtained.

⇒ A key for all locks and lockable compartments. Note: All locks, keys, doors and windows must be operational. The vehicle must have a jack and lug wrench. If the customer has locking lugs, then they must supply the key.

⇒ Installed alarms or anti-theft devices should be disconnected before shipment to prevent drainage of battery.

⇒ Stereo equipment and accessories not permanently mounted to metal must be removed to include speaker boxes, phones, compact disc players, citizen band radios, etc.

⇒ A carton will be pro-



vided at time of shipment for all loose items: warning triangle, first aid kits, ash trays, cigarette lighters, floor mats, tire chains, jumper cables, flash lights, blankets, fire extinguishers, removable antennas, tool boxes (\$200 maximum value), sun shades, pillows, ice scrapers, owner's manuals, baby booster seats, etc. Baby seats will be secured in the rear seat with seat belts. All loose items must fit in the box. If they do not fit in the box you are required to take them with you.

⇒ Items that cannot be shipped: liquids, oils, flam-

mables, weapons, etc.

⇒ All vehicles have to pass the U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection. That means the interior and trunk compartment must be vacuumed, including under the hood around the motor to remove leaves, seeds and dirt. Other areas that must be dirt-free include under seats and tracks, spare tire compartment, glove box, trunk area, windshield wiper area, door frames, under hood and around motor.

⇒ The undercarriage will be cleaned by the contractor at

Bremerhaven.

⇒ Some vans and extension cab trucks fall into an oversize category. Vehicles over 20 metric tons will be charged to the customer. For excess charge information contact your local VPC.

⇒ If you feel you have a unique problem (one not mentioned above) or are unable to make the necessary repairs, contact the Transcar POV shipping office at mil 334-2723 or civ (06134) 69303. The Transcar shipping office is located in Mainz-Kastel Housing, Building 7513, Wiesbadenerstr. 78.

New MP commander

Capt. Michael H. Capps Jr. passes the 527th Military Police Company colors to 1st Sgt.

Barry R. Oakes after assuming command of the company during a ceremony in Giessen March 12. The unit will move to Hohenfels as part of Army-wide transformation in May.

Photo by Petra Roberts



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Community spotlights . . . Community spotlights

Preseparation, career status training

The Giessen Transition Center hosts a **preseparation** class April 10 at 9 a.m. **Career Status Bonus/REDUX** training will be held April 25 at 9 a.m. The Transition Center is located in Building 4 on the Giessen Depot. Soldiers interested in attending must register for the class. Call mil 343-6504/6505 for details.

BOSS trips to amusement parks

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program hosts a trip to an **indoor go-cart track** April 19. A **Rüdesheim City Tour** is scheduled for April 12. A **Frankfurt City Tour** takes place April 5. A trip to **Holiday Park** will be featured April 3 and a tour to the **Europa Park** is planned for April 10. For more information on BOSS trips and events call mil 324-3158 or contact your unit's BOSS representative.

Child and Youth Services activities

Child and Youth Services hosts a family trip to **Euro Disney** in France April 13-14. The cost is \$65 for adults, \$45 for children age 3-11 and \$15 for children age 2 and younger. The bus leaves Giessen at 10:15 p.m. and Butzbach at 10:45 p.m. Registration deadline is April 9 at 6 p.m. A **Czech Family Shopping trip** to Karlovy Vary and the Asian flea market is scheduled for April 27-28. The cost is \$35. The bus departs Giessen at 1:30 a.m. and Butzbach at 2 a.m. To register call civ (06033) 73048.

Outdoor Recreation trip to Spain

Outdoor Recreation hosts a trip to **Lloret de Mar in Spain** April 9-13. The cost is \$429 for adults, \$319 for children age 4-11 and \$99 for children age 3 and younger. For details call mil 343-8207.

Options for pet owners when moving

U.S. Army Europe and garrison command policies prohibit neglect and abusive treatment of animals. These are



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Serving up green eggs and ham

Local Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe joined their stateside counterparts in celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday during the Read Across America celebration in March. At Giessen Elementary School Joy Cox, Pat Sweeten, Barbara Mueller and Jason Greve prepared green eggs and ham for students. The annual event is aimed at encouraging people young and old to get into the reading habit.

defined as any act or omission whereby an animal's physical or psychological well-being is compromised and includes pet abandonment. Such acts are subject to penalties and fines to include actions under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and civilian misconduct. Community members who cannot take their pets to the United States have several options to find a new home. The Veterinary Clinic Hanau can place flyers provided by the owner for placement or adoption. The *Stars and Stripes* offers free classified ads and the *Herald Union* will run free classified advertisements through May. German pet shelters accept unwanted pets without any charge. In Butzbach, pet owners can bring a photo and short description of the pet to the local shelter. The information will be placed on their website to help find a new owner while the pet stays with its family. The shelter is located at Am Himmrichsweg and opens

Tuesday to Friday from 5-6:30 p.m. and on Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. to noon.

Pick up medical records at Butzbach Health Clinic

With the impending closure of the Butzbach Health Clinic this year, retirees are reminded to pick up copies of their records. To do so schedule an appointment at mil 345-4040.

Parent's Night Out

The next Parent's Night Out will be held April 20 from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at the Bad Nauheim Child Development Center. For details call CLEOS at mil 343-8216.

ACS classes

The Army Community Service New Parent Education and Support Group offers a **Prepared Childbirth** class April 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A **Newborn Care** class will be held April 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A **Daddy Boot Camp** takes place April 28 from 10

a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call ACS in Giessen at mil 343-7618 or in Friedberg at mil 324-3465.

Theater auditions

Giessen's Keller Theatre hosts auditions April 24 and 25 starting at 7 p.m. for "The Fantasticks," a musical by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt. Four men, five women, musicians, backstage and technical assistance are needed. No experience required. For details call mil 343-6515.

School support groups

Giessen Elementary School hosts the Tigers' Den every Friday from 8:15-9 a.m. This support group helps children through the reintegration phase. Also available is whole class counseling, "mini classes" or small group counseling and individual counseling. The Parent Support Group meets every Wednesday from 1:30-2 p.m. to discuss issues such as reintegration, helping with adjustment and a child's emo-

tions. For details call the school at mil 343-7248.

Auto Skills special

The Auto Skills Centers in Giessen and Friedberg feature tire mounting for \$10 offer through April. This offer applies to tires on rims only. No appointments are required. For more information call the center in Giessen at mil 343-7050 or in Friedberg at mil 324-3218.

Easter services and holiday events

A Protestant service will be held for Maundy Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Friedberg Chapel. A Catholic Mass celebrating Holy Thursday will be held at 5:15 p.m. at the chapel in Friedberg and at 7 p.m. at the chapel in Giessen.

"Good Friday of the Lord's Passion" is the theme of a Catholic Mass taking place at 3 p.m. at the Friedberg Chapel on April 6. At 7 p.m. join the Giessen Tenebrae service featuring the film, "The Passion." It is rated R.

Easter Sunrise services will be held at the Giessen and Friedberg Chapels at 7:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 8, followed by regularly scheduled services.

Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien will celebrate a special confirmation Mass at 6 p.m. at the Giessen Chapel. Confirmation candidates meet at the Giessen Chapel at 5:30 p.m. This event will be followed by a reception at the Alpine Club at 7 p.m.

O'Brien will celebrate a Mass for redeployed Soldiers and parishioners at Friedberg Chapel at 11:30 a.m. April 11. He will then meet with Soldiers and chaplains at the Villa Calabria in Friedberg at 12:30 p.m.

Easter egg hunt

Join the U.S. Army Garrison Giessen Religious Services Office for an Easter egg hunt and covered dish picnic April 8 at the Giessen Chapel, following the 10:15 a.m. chapel service.



Avoid fads to stay physically fit

By Lt. Col. Will Wheeler
Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii

A fad can be defined as a fashion that becomes popular in a culture relatively quickly, yet loses popularity dramatically over time. In my youth I thought pet rocks, long hair and a brand of shirt whose trademark was a logo displaying two feet were things that would be around forever. It was not to be. Two went the way of many fads while my long hair was victim to a barber during basic training.

What does all of this have to do with practicing sound food choices for lifelong health? March is National Nutrition Month and this year's theme is "100 Percent Fad Free."

Although some fads may end up as topics of conversation in later years, diet fads can hinder us or prevent us from achieving our overall fitness goals.

The American Dietetic Association website (www.eatright.org) lists some fad diets from the past that may sound funny today but at one time were the craze. One promoted chewing food 32 times before swallowing, another promoted cabbage soup, and of course, there is the low-carbohydrate diet that has popped up numerous times (in various forms) since it was first introduced in 1825.

Rather than list the common attributes of a fad diet, I would like to focus on what seems to stand the test of time and may guide us all towards habits that

will help us be as healthy as we can be. The National Weight Control Registry was developed to identify and investigate the characteristics of people who succeeded at long-term weight loss. These people all practiced habits that helped them keep the weight off. Their daily practices can help all of us.

What all of these people had in common was a diet that can be characterized as low in calories, low in fat, and high in carbohydrates. They also ate several times throughout the day, monitored their body weight and exercised regularly.

A good resource for assessing your diet in comparison to sound diet practices is the Food Guide Pyramid at www.mypyramid.gov. The recommendations are based on sex, age and activity level and give prudent guidelines on the number of servings people should consume from each of the food groups daily. Each food group also comes with suggestions on choosing foods to keep the calories and fat low, and the carbohydrates at recommended levels.


The participants averaged 4.9 meals or snacks per day. Skipping meals or going long periods of time without eating is not beneficial, whether you want to lose weight or maintain your weight. It takes planning but the benefits of several small feedings throughout the day are better for cognitive and physical performance. Having fresh fruit and vegetables on hand is well worth the effort.

Self-monitoring of fitness goals allows people to see where they are and what may or may not be working. The majority of people in the NWCR monitored their body weight. That's a good thing to do but you may also want to keep track of the number of times you exercise per week, the number of fruit and vegetables you consume per day, or how many glasses of water you consume. Once you set a goal, you'll want to be able to assess how well you are doing.

As for exercise, 91 percent of the people surveyed engaged in regular activity. For many that meant exercising one hour per day. Recommendations will vary based on a person's goals but consistency and choosing something that you enjoy are the keys to any exercise program.

I hope these recommendations are helpful although you may never find them on the cover of a magazine where fads are commonly found. I believe they will continue to prove themselves over time. As for me, I haven't missed my pet rock, I am happy with the shirts I have now, and my hair will only grow long in some places on my head; but my commitment to healthy eating and regular exercise remains strong. Enjoy National Nutrition Month, "100 Percent Fad Free." (*Wheeler is a registered dietitian and the chief of the Nutrition Division at Tripler Army Medical Center.*)

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Dodgeball takes center stage in Büdingen

By Susan Huseman
U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Public Affairs Office

The players' muscles tense, heart rates quicken and senses heighten. Suddenly they are under attack. They scramble, leap and contort their bodies to avoid being hit before launching their own offensive with ferocious intensity.

Five 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, teams participated in a Morale Welfare and Recreation Dodgeball Tournament March 15 at Büdingen's Armstrong Fitness Center. Staff Infections, a team of squadron medics, took first. The Raw Dogs took second, followed by the Ram Rods in third.

"It's caught on in the past couple of years, especially after the movie ['Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story']," said Rodney Hamilton, fitness center sports director.

The game has gained legitimacy through official organizations. "Since 1996 there has been an International Federation of Dodgeball, and in the U.S. there is the National Amateur Dodgeball Association," he said.

According to the NADA website, www.dodgeballusa.com, there are adult and youth dodgeball leagues and tournaments across the country.

"It's a little kid's game, but we're little kids at heart," said



Photo by Susan Huseman

Members of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, compete in a Dodgeball Tournament March 15 at Büdingen's Armstrong Fitness Center.

Sgt. Anthony Thomas, a member of the Spoiled Brats, a team comprised of mechanics from 1-1st Cav. "At the beginning of this month we started getting into the dodgeball thing. We started with two teams and now we have five."

A powerful throw is valuable. "The balls are real light," Thomas said. "You have to throw side arm." Putting spin

on the ball helps, he added.

Getting hit can sting, said Spc. Mark Walton, B Troop, as a ball ricochets off a player. "It depends on where you get hit.

difficult. "The object is to get the other team off the court as quickly as possible," said Walton. "You throw the ball and hit the other guy and he's

out. If he catches the ball, you're out. And if one of his teammates is already out, he

gets to come back on the court." "You can't hit them in the head or you're out. And the ball can't hit he ground before

"It's caught on in the past couple of years, especially after the movie 'Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story.'"

it hits you," Walton added.

According to the rules circulated at the tournament, there are six players per side and six dodgeballs. The first team to eliminate all opposing players by getting them out is declared the winner.

The games are fast, each lasting up to five minutes. If neither team has been eliminated at the end of the five minutes, the team with the most players remaining is declared the winner.

The tournament broke up the daily routine, said Sgt. James Cooper. Members of the squadron wrapped up their last gunnery exercise last month and are getting ready to inactivate, readying vehicles and property for the move, he said. "It's good to show Soldiers it's not just go, go, go. You've got to find your fun when you can."

For information on dodgeball

✓ National Amateur Dodgeball Association website at www.dodgeballusa.com.

✓ International Federation of Dodgeball website at www.dodge-ball.com.

✓ See "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story," available at Pioneer Library and the shoppette on Wolfgang Shopping Center.

EFMP screenings required for moves outside the U.S.

By Susan Moyer
Exceptional Family Member Program
manager

Several Hanau area units will convert, deactivate or return to the United States in the coming months as part of the Department of Defense's plan to transform the military.

With this in mind it is crucial for all Soldiers, particularly those who have exceptional family members, to plan ahead to avoid delays in the reassignment process.

It is vital for Soldiers who have

exceptional family members to ensure their enrollment information is kept up-to-date.

The Exceptional Family Member Program ensures continuity of the family member's care, special education or early intervention services as families move to a new location. The program combines the efforts of the personnel and medical commands, Army Community Service and the educational system.

Soldiers without any identified exceptional family members too often dis-

miss anything related to the EFMP. It is crucial that Soldiers are aware that an EFMP screening is required for all family members, not only those identified as exceptional family members, if they are moving to a duty location outside of the continental United States on an accompanied tour. This includes OCONUS to OCONUS moves such as requests for consecutive overseas tours; intra-theater transfers; foreign service tour extensions; and moves to Alaska, Hawaii, Japan or other overseas areas where family member travel is authorized at government expense.

The screening is not required if the Soldier is moving to the continental United States.

Typically Soldiers with a DEROS

date that is more than one year from the date of their unit's scheduled move or deactivation will transfer to another installation within U.S. Army Europe. From a personnel perspective, this move, even though it is a command-directed move, is considered an intra-theater transfer, and the EFMP screening process must be completed.

It is important to understand that personnel offices cannot include the names of any family members on permanent change of station orders until they have received documentation that verifies the EFMP screening was completed.

For more information, call mil 322-8965, civ (06181) 88-8965 or email susan.moyer1@us.army.mil.

www.hanau.army.mil

Operation Oozelfinch: Air defenders participate in German-American training

By Karl Weisel

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Public Affairs Office

German and American air defenders tightened the bonds of friendship and professional understanding in Hardheim Feb. 21-28. Forty-five members of Hanau's A Battery and support batteries of the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, joined their German counterparts from the 2nd Battery, Panzerflakbataillon 12, for a week of situational training exercises, sports competitions and weapons qualifying.

"This is the first time any of the batteries have done this," said 1st Lt. Anthony Corona, launcher platoon leader, A Battery, 5-7th ADA, explaining that while the battalion has long enjoyed joint partnership events, the most recent get-together provided an opportunity for individual batteries to train jointly. "We hope to make it a tradition."

Dubbed Operation Oozelfinch in honor of the air defense mascot, the weeklong training featured everything from STX lane training to convoy operations, medical aid to dismounted patrols. While mixed German-American platoons tackled the various scenarios presented, training was conducted by both German and American instructors. "It was a great partnership event in a NATO environment," said Corona.

"Initially it was a little bit of a shock, but it worked out well. By the end of the operation our Soldiers were spending their evening hours talking with the German Soldiers in their barracks. It didn't take long for them to mingle.

"It was personally satisfying to see the Soldiers come away so happy about training," Corona added. "This wasn't your average training; it provided an opportunity to learn new words, a new culture ... and how to work in a NATO multinational environment."

Besides giving the Soldiers new insights into how to better work together, the German and American air defenders also had time to socialize during evening get-togethers, compete for German and American sports recognition, and to qualify for German Schutzenschnur marksmanship qualification. The U.S. Soldiers competed in the long jump, three-kilometer run, 200-meter swim, 100-meter sprint and shot put to qualify for the German Sports Badge while German Soldiers qualified on the Army Physical Fitness Test. Soldiers also competed in a soccer game and the Americans shot various German weapons to earn the Schutzenschnur.

"It was a great chance to see how different, but how much the same it is for them and us," said Spc. Neill Fagley, A Battery, 5-7th ADA. "I can now



Photo by Hauptfeldwebel Elze

Members of the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, and 2nd Battery, Panzerflakbataillon 12, participate in a week-long German-American training exercise.

better understand how the Germans conduct different things than us. I also got a chance to see some of their equipment and work on my German skills."

"I learned a lot about German culture and that a lot of stereotypes just aren't true," said Sgt. Adrian Johnson, also of A Battery.

Improving communication skills on the battlefield was also important, Johnson said. "I went from not knowing German at all to now having simple one-word commands and hand movements to express my intent to Soldiers who don't speak my language."

Johnson added that the German Soldiers were highly appreciative of the knowledge and experiences shared by the U.S. military members who have served in combat. "A

lot of us have added skill sets that we learned downrange and they were eager to learn those."

Advice such as not leaning against a wall during a firefight to avoid falling victim to a ricochet shot and medical evacuation procedures were prized, Johnson said.

"They'd show us how they do things and we'd show them our techniques," he said, adding that the Americans, too, came away with valuable insight.

"It was a lot of good training," said Spc. Jesse Davis, A Battery, 5-7th ADA. "It was a step up — we learned a lot of different tactics from our German partners. There were a lot of realistic scenarios, a lot more realistic training."

Davis, whose military occupational specialty is chemical reconnaissance, said a highlight of Operation Oozelfinch was a chance to drive the German Fuchs Nuclear, Chemical and Biological vehicle. "It brought back memories of driving the Fox," he said.

The air defenders are looking forward to more joint training in the future, said Corona. The Ger-

man unit has been invited to Hanau in May for the next session, Operation Oozelfinch II.

Is the U.S. tax code your idea of pleasure reading?

"I bet that if you actually read the entire vastness of the U.S. tax code, you'd find at least one sex scene. 'Yes, yes, yes! moaned Vanessa, as Lance, his taut body moist with moisture, again and again depreciated her adjusted gross rate of annualized fiscal debenture.'"

— Dave Barry

By Capt. Richard Williams
Hanau Legal Center

While the Hanau Tax Center can neither confirm nor deny if the U.S. tax code contains any such passages, its staff is willing to bet that it's not anyone's idea of pleasure reading.

So leave the U.S. tax code to the Hanau Tax Center experts who provide free tax preparation assistance to Soldiers, family members, retirees and Department of Defense civilians.

The tax center is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, although people with complex tax returns are encouraged to schedule an appointment.

For answers to your tax questions or concerns about filing your 2006 personal income tax return, contact the Hanau Tax Center at mil 322-9802, civ (06181) 88-9802 or visit the Hanau Tax Center on the third floor of Building 4 on Pioneer Kaserne.

"This wasn't your average training; it provided an opportunity to learn new words, a new culture ... and how to work in a NATO multinational environment."

History luncheon honors 'women who dared'

Contributions by renowned American women highlighted

By Dennis Johnson

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Public Affairs Office

Contributions by American women were showcased during a Women's History Month Luncheon at the Pioneer Dining Facility March 8.

Guest speaker Lt. Col. Tammy McKenna, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach commander, shared biographical details of famous women throughout America's history, especially those who had broken barriers for women. She mentioned suffragette Susan B. Anthony and opera singer Marian Anderson. She told the lunch crowd how Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, was known as the "angel of the battlefield" for her work ministering to wounded Soldiers during the American Civil War and, at the age of 77, to Soldiers during the Spanish-American War. "Seventy-seven years old ladies, never say you're too old to make a difference," said McKenna.

Next she highlighted two women who affected the lives of female military members.

"Mary Walker was the first female surgeon in the U.S. Army. She continually crossed the confederate lines to treat civilians," said McKenna. "After being taken prisoner in Richmond, she was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the first woman to receive this award. In 1917 her medal, along with 910 others, was taken away when Congress revised the standards to include only actual combat with the

enemy. She refused to return the medal, wore it until her death, and it was finally awarded to her posthumously. God bless her for her personal and moral courage."

McKenna spoke about retired Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught, who raised more than \$45 million to build the Women In Military Service For America Memorial and education center in Arlington, Va. [www.womensmemorial.org] She also spoke about the many women who are making inroads into the political centers of the nation, including Nancy Pelosi, the first woman to be speaker of the House of Representatives.

"Women remain under represented in elective office. They make up 51 percent of the U.S. population, but 24 percent of state legislators, 18 percent of governors and about 16 percent of Congress. ... But I suspect that in our lifetime we will see a woman as leader of our country," said McKenna.

"It's important to thank and remember the women who have paved the way, and who con-



Photo by Karl Weisel

Guest speaker Lt. Col. Tammy McKenna, USAG Ansbach commander, shares stories of a few famous women throughout America's history.

Reginald T. Lucas, USAG Hessen Equal Opportunity adviser, at mil 323-2012.

tinue to set an example for our work and our lives — yet I say to you ladies and gentlemen: embrace your own histories.

"So when I say embrace your own histories, I mean we all have our histories of where we came from, but where you go after you leave your parents' home is limited only by the limits you place on yourself.

"Perhaps the history you make is that you were the first woman in your family to join the military ... or to go to college, or the first woman who decided she wanted a career," she said. "Make your own history, and be inspired by those who have forged the path through great odds to bring us to the state of our society today," McKenna said.

For more information on Equal Opportunity events contact Sgt. 1st Class

www.hanau.army.mil

Youth of the Year

Local teen named Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year

Logan Peter, a 17-year-old Hanau High School senior, has been named the Boys and Girls Clubs of America Youth of the Year for the Hanau Youth Services program.

Being named a Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys and Girls Club of America member can receive, according to club officials. The title recognizes the youths' contributions to their family, school, community and the Boys and Girls Club.

"The Reader's Digest Foundation has been the proud sponsor of the Youth of the Year program since 1947," said Susan Fraysse Russ, executive director of the Reader's Digest Foundation. "For 60 years we have had the great honor of saluting amazing teens, like Logan Peter, for their dedication to their families, club and community, and helping them achieve their academic and career goals."

Peter is president of the student

council and a member of the football, wrestling and track and field teams. He said he plans to attend college in the United States after graduation. His community achievements include volunteering at events such as last year's Fourth of July and Easter celebrations.

"Logan is an exemplary youth, having contributed to a plethora of activities throughout our community for years," said Jonny Cain, Bottom Line Teen Center director.

Peter will next compete against other Boys and Girls Club members for the U.S. Army Europe Youth of the Year title and a \$1,000 scholarship. If Peter wins at this level he will compete for the title of Regional Youth of the Year and a \$10,000 scholarship.

The five regional winners will travel to Washington, D.C., in September to compete for the title of BGCA's National Youth of the Year. The national winner receives an additional \$15,000



Photo by Gene Knudsen

Hanau's Youth of the Year, Logan Peter, (right) is a member of the Hanau High School wrestling team.

college scholarship awarded by the president at a White House ceremony.

For more information about the Boys and Girls Club of America contact Cain at mil 322-8040 or civ (06181) 88-8040. (Courtesy of Boys and Girls Clubs of America)

Volksmarching in Hanau

"We have a lot of fun," said Victor McAllister, a retired American living in Erlensee when he talked about an ad hoc group of Americans who share the pastime of folksmarching.

"I always say it's about the three Fs — fun, fitness and friendship. Others I know have added two more — food and fermented beverages," he said.

McAllister organized a group called the Hanau Wanderfreunde (Hanau Walking Friends) who participate in local folksmarches close to Hanau.

For information and to receive a weekly email of events call McAllister at (06183) 913-363, email vicmac@olympus.net. or go to <http://hanauwalkers.tripod.com>.

More information can be found at www.dvv-wandern.de, www.evg-deutschland.com, the Thursday issue of *Stars and Stripes*, every second issue of the *Herald Union* (page 26 Take a Hike) and on the USAG Hessen website.

Community notes . . . Community notes

Welfare requests

The Hanau Community Spouses Club is accepting welfare requests through March 31. Established organizations can request money for a project to benefit their community or organization. HCSC has previously funded the Scouts, school organizations, the Red Cross, USO and Family Readiness Groups. Organizations should include the amount they're requesting and contact information. Requests should be emailed to christywhitaker@yahoo.com. For information call Christy Whitaker at civ (06181) 983 0321.

Community info fair

The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment will hold a squadron information fair at Armstrong Barracks' fitness center in Büdingen March 30 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to facilitate the inactivation process. Agencies such as the passport office, finance, Army Community Service, Child and Youth Services, personnel, dental and medical will provide information about the upcoming transition from the post. For information call mil 323-2093.

Easter Eggstravaganza

Bring the children out for an Easter egg hunt, face painting, games, a jumping castle and moon walk, photos with the Easter Bunny and more at the Easter Eggstravaganza, April 7 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. The Easter egg hunt starts at noon. For information call civ (06181) 88-5834/9013 or mil 322-8534/9013.

Easter services

A complete list of Easter services can be found on the USAG Hessen website at www.usaghessen.eur.army.mil/chapel2/EasterServices07.htm.

Family Fun Day and Parent University

Bring the children out for fun while you learn about being a better parent at the Hanau



Photo by Christine Neumann, Kreis-Anzeiger

Return from Grafenwöhr

Soldiers of the 1-1st Cav unloaded their military vehicles at the railroad tracks near Berliner Strasse in Büdingen March 2. The unit returned after a month-long training exercise at the Grafenwöhr Training Area. The next time the unit rolls out, it will be for the final time.

Month of the Military Child Family Fun Day/Parent University April 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held on Pioneer Kaserne between Buildings 19 and 20 and will offer food, music, a pet fair, teddy bear picnic, story hours, face painting, sumo wrestling, K-9 demonstrations, flower planting and fire trucks. Adults can attend the Parent University to learn about swaddling infants, the "Joy of Single Parenting," stress and anger management, "Why Toddlers Drive us Crazy," financial management and yoga. Teens can attend yoga classes and seminars about teen dating and preparing for college. There will be displays and demonstrations by the fire department, health clinic and library. For information or to help, call John Bowman at mil 322-9360.



Passport office closed

The Hanau passport office

will be closed April 17-19. The office is located in Room 8B, Building 21 on Pioneer Kaserne and is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. Call mil 322-8415 for information.

CYS Sports Office

The Hanau CYS Sports Office moved to Building 454 on Old Argonner Kaserne. The new telephone numbers are mil 322-9986 or mil 322-9616.

MyBiz passwords

All MyBiz users with accounts initially created with an eight-digit default password were reset to a 10-digit default password. See instructions for the new default passwords and for creating a personal 10-digit password at <http://cpolthp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/dcpds/MyBizLoginInstructions.pdf>.

U.S. visa information

Foreign-born spouses of

U.S. citizens need a visa to travel to the United States. Visa applications can be obtained at the passport office, but visas must be applied for at the U.S. Consulate. The process can take several months, so spouses should plan ahead. Go to www.uscis.gov, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website, or www.usembassy.de for more information.

PCS help

If you're moving to the U.S. or another post in Germany and need assistance or information about relocation, financial readiness, employment and EFMP screenings, contact Army Community Service in Building 19 on Pioneer Kaserne or call mil 322-8965 or civ (06181) 88-8965.

Visit Büdingen

The Büdingen city website offers English pages that provide tips for touring the historic town, town hall, castle and museum, half-timbered houses and trips into the countryside. For more information go to www.buedingen-touristik.de/inhalt/index_main.htm and click on the British flag.

Goldsmith tours

The Goldschmiedehaus Hanau (Goldsmith House) offers tours for English-speaking groups. Call civ (06181) 256 556 or send an email to Christina.gaertner@gfghanau.de to sign up your group. The Goldsmith House is open Tuesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located on Altstädter Markt 6 in Hanau. For more information visit www.hanau.de/kultur/museum/artikel/00583 (English are

pages available).

1-1st Cav blood drive

The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment is holding a blood drive March 29 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Armstrong Barracks fitness center in Büdingen. For information call mil 321-4794/4710 or civ (0174) 458-5769.

Military family life consultants

Military family life consultants are available to help anyone with marriage and relationship issues, depression, stress or dealing with grief. Consultations are free and confidential. Call civ (0175) 259-0395 or (0175) 988-9097 to talk with someone.



Deactivation ceremony

The 320th Engineer Company will hold a deactivation ceremony April 5 at 11 a.m. on Pioneer Kaserne. They are the last map maker unit in Europe.

Public Affairs Office volunteer

The Hanau Community Public Affairs Office seeks a native English-speaking volunteer to assist with writing stories and shooting photos for the *Herald Union*, community website, TV channel, and to work with AFN. Interested people should call mil 323-2135.

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MWR moments

USAG Baumholder NBTV Puppet Show

Armed Forces Entertainment brings the Natural Bridges TV Puppet Show to Baumholder's Wetzel Kaserne in Building 8808 April 4 at 5:30 p.m. This free, family friendly puppet show is tailored to children. Call mil 485-6352 for details.

Need a battle buddy?

Baumholder's Rolling Hills Athletic Club offers one-hour sessions with certified personal trainers Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 7:30 p.m. Sessions cost \$20 for members and \$35 for others. Call civ (06783) 6-7093.

Easter brunch, egg hunt

Enjoy an Easter brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 8 at the Rheinlander Club, Building 8085, on Smith Barracks. The Easter Bunny and an Easter egg hunt will be featured. Adult meals cost \$16.50 and there are lower prices for children age 6 and older. Children under 5 eat for free. Call mil 485-7507.

Hanau Community Class is in session

Hanau's Morale Welfare and Recreation Automation Department features a high-tech training room for military and civilian training. It has 15 computer stations with Internet connectivity, an instructor station and video teleconferencing capability. The training room is located on Yorkhof Kaserne in Building 1206. Call civ (06181) 180-3468.

Prevent sexual assault

Arm yourself with self-defense techniques that could save you from becoming a victim of sexual assault. Hanau Army Community Service offers free self-defense classes April 3 and 17 from 6-7:30 p.m. Call civ (06181) 88-8965 for details.

Celebrate volunteers

Recognize volunteers who offer their personal time to make the community better on April 25 at 4 p.m. All volunteers who reg-

ister before the event will be recognized. Call civ (06181) 88-8965 to register.

USAG Giessen Dodgeball madness

Need to vent some energy? Friedberg holds a Dodgeball Tournament at the Ray Barracks Fitness Center April 7 at 10 a.m. Entry fee is \$50 per team. Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams. Call mil 343-7866.

Super sale

Giessen's Crafters Corner in Building 47 on the Giessen Depot offers 75 percent off crafting materials, paints and other items. Call civ (0641) 402-6445 for details.

Job skills classes

Prepare for your next move by getting your resume in order. Army Community Service offers a range of classes from resume and cover letter workshops to interviewing techniques. Classes are available upon request by calling civ (0641) 402-6038 in Giessen or civ (06031) 81-3710 in Friedberg.

USAG Wiesbaden All you can eat

The Rheinlander Club on Dexheim's Anderson Barracks offers an all-you-can-eat buffet April 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$7.50. Call civ (06133) 69-712.

Spring Fest

Celebrate Month of the Military Child April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. behind the Wiesbaden Fitness Center with free pony rides, face painting, flea market and more. The climbing wall and skate park will also have grand openings with demonstrations and contests. Call mil 335-5466.

Indoor deals

Buy or sell items at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center's Indoor Flea Market in Building 1011 on April 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the airfield. Call civ (0611) 705-5750 to reserve a table.



Hard-core runners

Air Force athletes dominate half-marathon race around Wiesbaden Army Airfield

Story and photos by
Karl Weisel

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Public Affairs Office

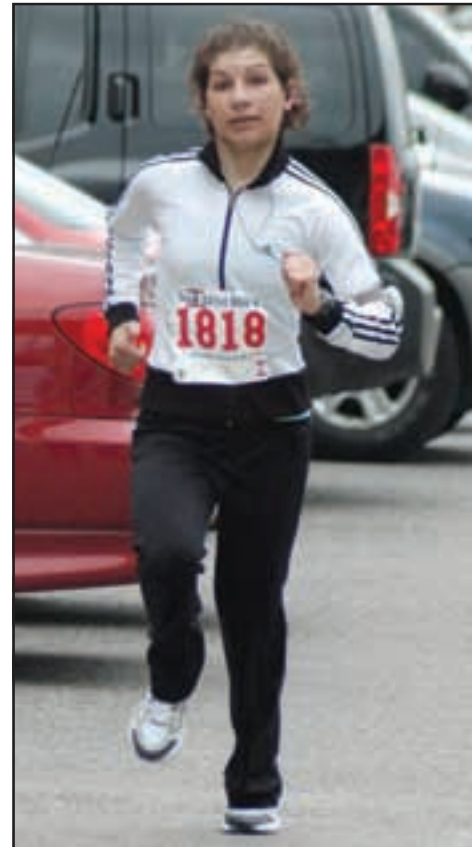
As basketball teams faced off inside the Wiesbaden Fitness Center at the Installation Management Command-Europe Community Level Basketball Championships March 17, 21 runners pounded the pavement outside.

Service member and civilian athletes turned out for a brisk 13-mile run that started adjacent to the new fitness center and took them for a chilly jaunt through the fields surrounding Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

As Wiesbaden and Dexheim sports officials tried to keep warm in the icy wind blowing across the finish line, the first runners crossed the mark with Wiesbaden's Jim Clough completing the half marathon in a time of one hour, 22 minutes and 48 seconds.

"Make sure you mention that Air Force runners took first and third," said Clough as he cheered on his running partner Eric Kirby, who came in third overall and took first place in the men's submasters (age 40-49) category.

"It was a great course," said Clough, an airman with the 1st Air Support Operations Squad-



Landstuhl's Bridget Durocher was the fastest woman runner in a time of 1:37:28.

ron at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, who said he is training to run the Bonn Marathon in April. "I've got a little work to do before April."

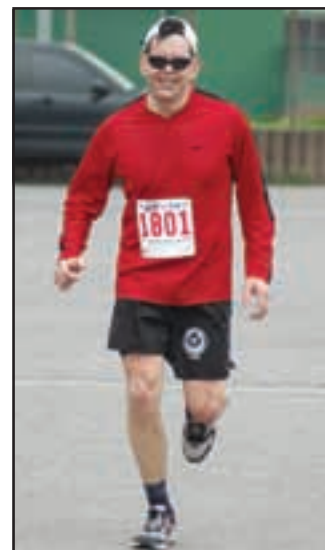
Clough, who said he started running during his freshman year in college, has six marathons under his belt.

"I love this assignment," he

Preventive Medicine-Europe, said she would like to run the Army 10 Miler in Washington, D.C., and the Disney Marathon. "I train by running eight and 10 mile runs and a 20-mile run on the weekends. ... I've got to keep up with my sergeant major. He's a runner too."

Kyle Ferrarini was the second runner to finish in 1:22:48.

Other runners to place in their individual categories were: *men's submasters* — Larry Purdue, second, and Willie Larkins, third; *men's seniors* — David Marraro, first, Robert Evans, second, Richard Singh, third; *men's masters* — Robert Morris, first; *women's open* — Laurel Fernacci, second, Jennifer Blakeslee, third; *women's seniors* — Charlie Massingill, first; *women's submasters* — Kim Ventura, first, Vernell Shaw, second; *women's masters* — Gail Gilderoy, first, Karen Morris, second.



Wiesbaden airmen Jim Clough (left) and Eric Kirby finished the 13-mile race in first and third places respectively.

Sports and leisure



Photos by Karl Weisel

Wiesbaden rules the courts

Both the Wiesbaden men and women's teams made it to the finals of the Installation Management Command-Europe Community-level Basketball Championships March 18. While the Wiesbaden men defeated Heidelberg 73-46 to take the championship, the Wiesbaden women's team fell to Heidelberg 50-36 to claim second place overall at the Army-Europe event. Both teams join their Heidelberg counterparts in the Army-Air Force Final Four Tournament slated to be held March 29 to April 1 at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center. Photo above left: Wiesbaden players watch as a shot drops for two points against Stuttgart. Photo right: Wiesbaden's Tania Spann drives in toward the key in a March 17 game against Stuttgart during the championship.

Sports shorts . . . Sports shorts

Army 10-Miler

Registration for the Army's annual 10-mile race in Washington, D.C., opens April 2 online at www.armytenmiler.com. This year's field has been increased to 26,000. The race, which takes place Oct. 7, starts and ends at the Pentagon with the route taking runners past the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument and the Capitol.

Army-Air Force hoop championship

Wiesbaden Fitness Center hosts the Army-Air Force Community Final Four Basketball Championships March 29 to April 1 starting at 10 a.m. Admission is free for spectators.

Rugby sign-ups

The Baumholder Sports Office is taking sign-ups for rugby. Players and coaches are sought. Call mil 485-6671/7176.

Dodgeball Tournament

Wiesbaden and Dexheim hold a Smash Dodgeball Tournament April 21 at 10 a.m. Entrance is \$50 per team. Call mil 337-5541 for details.

Belly dancing

Wiesbaden Fitness Center offers belly dancing classes on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$70 for the

eight-week session. Call civ (0611) 705-5541 for details.

Basketball showdown

Come out and cheer on the players at a German-American friendship basketball game on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne March 31 at 1 p.m. While the American team lost their first face-off during Hanau's Bürgerfest last summer, the players hope to do better this time around.



Sports Official Softball Clinic

The Wiesbaden and Dexheim Fitness Centers hold a Sports Official Softball Clinic April 17-20 at 6 p.m. Call mil 334-5746 or 337-5541 for details.

Golf under lights

Baumholder's Rolling Hills Golf Course features a driving range with lights on until 9:30 p.m. Purchase tokens at the Pro Shop before 5 p.m. Call mil 485-7299 for more information.

Schiffenberg walk/run

Bring the family for Giessen's Schiffenberg Castle 5-K run or 3-K walk April 28. Call civ (0641) 402-7201.

Softball tournament

Hanau's Pioneer Sports and Fitness Center hosts a Double Eliminator Soft-

ball Tournament April 21-22. Cost is \$250 per team. Registration deadline is April 13. Call mil 322-8197 or civ (06181) 88-8565 for details.

Bowling championships

The Army Europe Bowling Championships will be held April 18-20 at the Kessler Bowling Center in Schweinfurt. The U.S. Bowling Congress-sanctioned tournament is open to all military and civilian U.S. ID cardholders stationed or on temporary duty in Europe. All participants must possess a current USBC membership or may buy one from the local bowling association on site before the start of the competition. Deadline to enter is April 11. Call Bobby Boggs at mil 354-6332 or civ (09721) 83391 for more information. (*IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs*)

Charity golf tourney

The Kaiserslautern American-German Business Club Charity Golf Tournament will be held June 1 at the Ramstein Golf Course. The event supports the Kaiserslautern AGBC scholarship fund. Visit www.agbc.de for more information.

Boxing invitational

Baumholder's Hall of Champions holds a boxing invitational March 31 at 7 p.m. Call mil 485-7176 for details.

Things to do

NB Puppets in Hanau

Armed Forces Entertainment presents NBTV starring the Natural Bridges Puppets April 15 at 1 p.m. at the Kid's Korner on Hanau's Wolfgang Shopping Center.

Travel with the USO

Rhein Main Area USOs offer trips to **Rhein Castles and Koblenz** April 1, **Paris** April 6-8, **Atta-Höhle Cavern and Biggesee** April 6, **Trier** April 7, **Wartburg** April 9, **Keukenhof Garden** April 14 and 28, **Heidelberg** April 14, **Cologne** April 21, **Weimar and Buchenwald** April 21, **Joska Glass Works** April 21, **Nürnberg** April 28 and the **Rhein Falls and Mainau Island** May 5. Stop by your local USO.

Bound for Glory

Frankfurt's Fotografie Forum features an exhibition of photos shot by photographers for the Farm Security Administration in the United States in the late 1930s and early '40s. The Library of Congress exhibition features works by the 12 photographers (including Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans) who worked for eight years to record images of the rural population dramatically affected by the Great Depression. While many people are familiar with the black-and-white images from that time, the current exhibit includes color photos recently discovered in the files of the Library of Congress. The Fotografie Forum exhibit runs through April 29 and is located behind the Frankfurt Cathedral at Weckmarkt 17. Visit www.ffi-frankfurt.de/e_current_more.htm for more information. (*Courtesy of the U.S. Consulate*)



Photo by Michael Coleman

Op Art Exhibit

The Frankfurt Schirn Gallery features a collection of Op Art through May 20. The gallery, located by the Frankfurt Cathedral, is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and remains open until 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.



At the movies March 29 to April 12



Eddie Murphy (from left) Beyoncé Knowles, Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson and Anika Noni Rose star in "Dreamgirls."

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

March 30 — Smoking Aces (R) 7 p.m.
March 31 — Dreamgirls (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 1 — Wild Hogs (PG-13) 4 p.m.
April 6-7 — 300 (R) 7 p.m.
April 8 — Epic Movie (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Büdingen, Little

March 30 — Primeval (R) 7 p.m.
March 31 — Happily N'Ever After (PG) 3 p.m.
April 6 — Alpha Dog (R) 7 p.m.
April 7 — Freedom Writers (PG-13) 3 p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

March 29 — Freedom Writers (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 30 — Bridge To Terabithia (PG) 7 p.m.
March 31 — Dreamgirls (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 5 — Dreamgirls (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 6 — The Number 23 (R) 7 p.m.
April 7 — Epic Movie (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 12 — Blood And Chocolate (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Giessen, Skyline

March 30 — Smoking Aces (R) 7 p.m.
March 31 — Bridge To Terabithia (PG) 7 p.m.
April 1 — Dreamgirls (PG-13) 3 p.m.
April 6 — Blood And Chocolate (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 7 — The Number 23 (R) 7 p.m.
April 8 — Catch And Release (PG-13) 3 p.m.

Hanau, Evening Star

March 29 — Freedom Writers (PG-

13) 7 p.m.

March 30 — Wild Hogs (PG-13) 7 p.m. Dreamgirls (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.

March 31 — Wild Hogs (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Queen (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.

April 1 — Wild Hogs (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 2 — Smoking Aces (R) 7 p.m.

April 3 — Dreamgirls (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 4 — The Queen (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 5 — Smoking Aces (R) 7 p.m.

April 6 — 300 (R) 7 p.m. Epic Movie (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.

April 7 — 300 (R) 7 p.m. Blood And Chocolate (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.

April 8 — 300 (R) 7 p.m.

April 9 — Catch And Release (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 10 — Epic Movie (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 11 — Blood And Chocolate (PG-13) 7 p.m.



The Queen (Dame Helen Mirren) and Prince Phillip (James Cromwell) look at flowers honoring Princess Diana.

April 12 — Catch And Release (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

March 29 — Night At The Museum (PG) 7 p.m.

March 30 — Dreamgirls (PG-13) 7 p.m. Reign Over Me (R) 10 p.m.

March 31 — Happily N'Ever After (PG) 4 p.m. Dreamgirls (PG-13) 7 p.m. Reign Over Me (R) 10 p.m.

April 1 — Dreamgirls (PG-13) 4 p.m. Reign Over Me (R) 7 p.m.

April 2 — The Queen (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 3 — Smoking Aces (R) 7 p.m.

April 4 — Dreamgirls (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 5 — Smoking Aces (R) 7 p.m.

April 6 — Meet The Robinsons (G) 7 p.m. Epic Movie (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.

April 7 — Meet The Robinsons (G) 4 p.m. Blood And Chocolate (PG-13) 7 p.m. Catch And Release (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.

April 8 — Meet The Robinsons (G) 4 p.m. Epic Movie (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 9 — Catch And Release (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 10 — Blood And Chocolate (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 11 — Catch And Release (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 12 — Blood And Chocolate (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the most up-to-date schedule visit the garrison's website (see address below).

Movie plots

Epic Movie (PG-13) — Hollywood's big-budget, special effects-filled, blockbuster films are parodied.

Blood And Chocolate (PG-13) — A teenage werewolf has spent her life trying to hide the fact that she is part wolf. She must choose between her love for a human and her family after her relationship with an American threatens to expose her secret.

Meet The Robinsons (G) — Lewis hopes to find the family he never knew. When he encounters a mysterious stranger named Wilbur Robinson, Lewis is in for the time-travel of his life where he meets the fun and futuristic Robinsons.

Reign Over Me (PG-13) — Adam Sandler plays a man who lost his family in the 9/11 attacks on New York. A chance meeting with an old college roommate (Don Cheadle) helps him get over his grief.

Smoking Aces (R) — An FBI agent hunts for a Las Vegas stand up comedian who plans to squeal on the mob. Before going into protective custody the comic visits Lake Tahoe casinos. Meanwhile the mob puts out a bounty on his head and an assortment of psychopaths and assassins come looking for him.

Dreamgirls (PG-13) — This is a story of love, loyalty, fame and betrayal that tracks the struggle and triumphs of an all-girl group and their hit sound into mainstream America in the 1960s and '70s.

The Queen (PG-13) — Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Tony Blair, following the death of Diana, reach a compromise between what was a private tragedy for the Royal family and the public's demand for an overt display of mourning.

Shooter (R) — An ace marksman is persuaded by former associates that his help is needed to prevent an assassination. Subsequently double-crossed and framed for the presidential assassination he was trying to prevent, he is forced to go on the run while trying to track down the real killer and discover the truth about those who betrayed him.

300 (R) — Based on the novel by Frank Miller, "300" retells the ancient tale of the battle of Thermopylae in which King Leonidas (Gerard Butler) and 300 Spartans fought to the death against Xerxes and his massive Persian army. Facing insurmountable odds, their valor and sacrifice inspire all of Greece to unite against the Persian enemy.

Happily N'Ever After (PG) — Inspired by the classic Grimm Brothers Fairy Tales, this animated feature explores what would happen if the balance of good and evil were set out of whack in Fairy Tale Land.

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